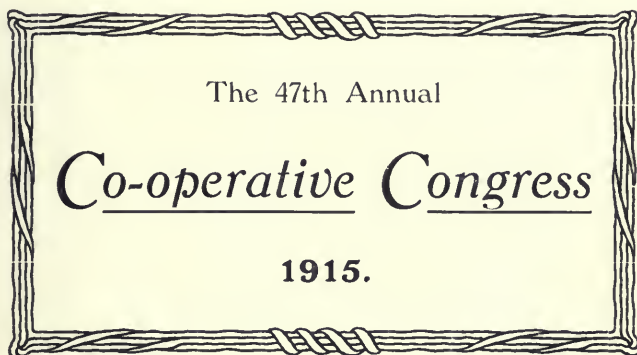


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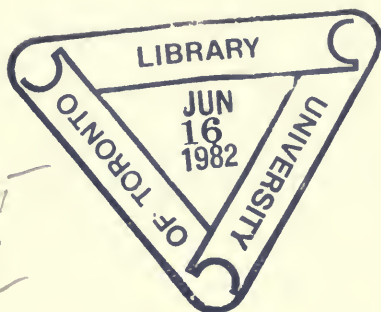
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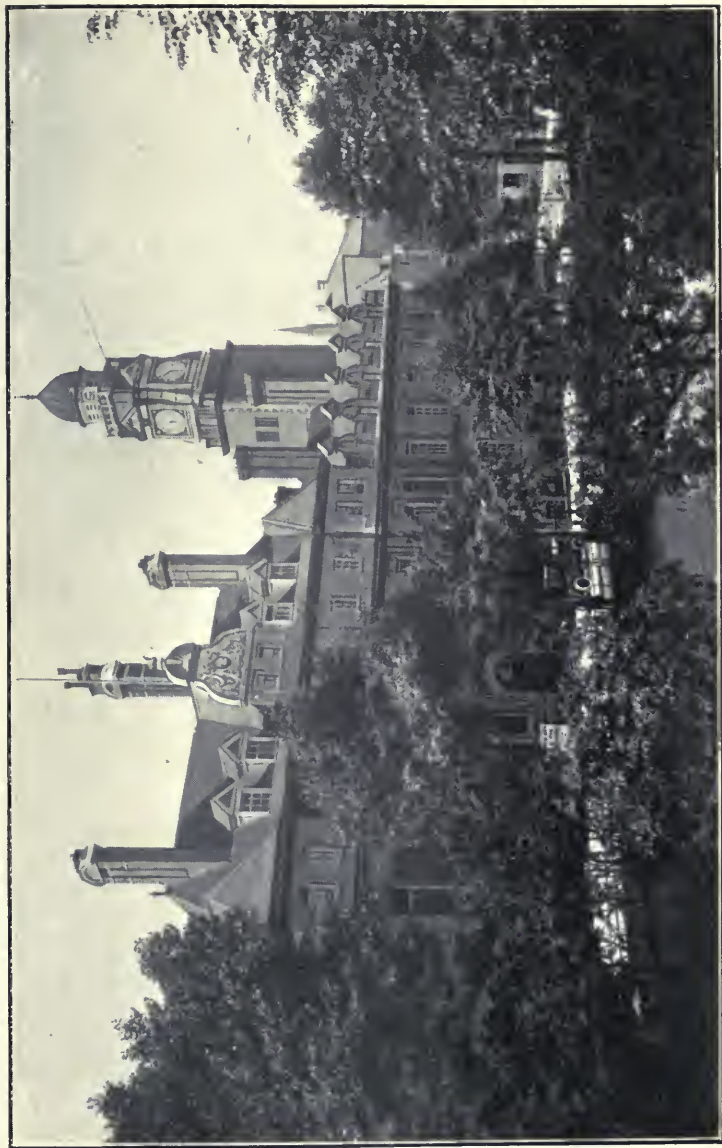
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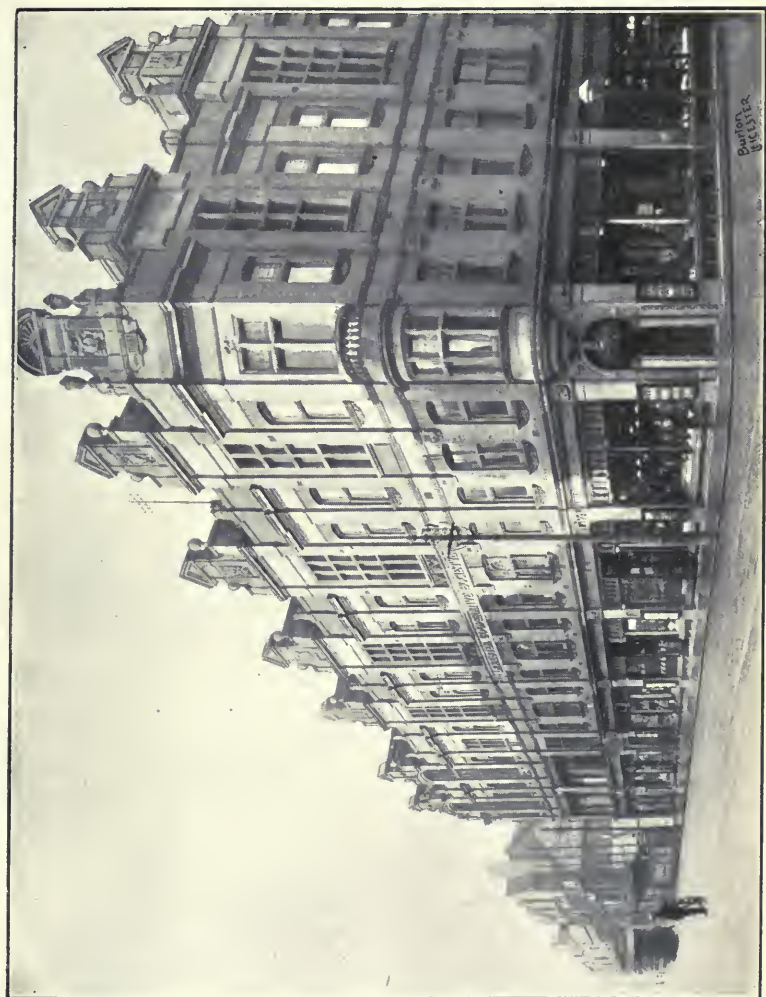
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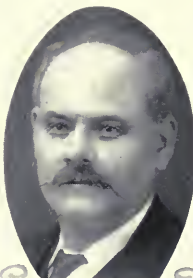
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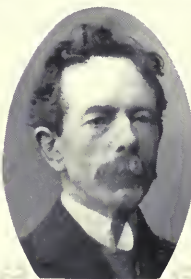
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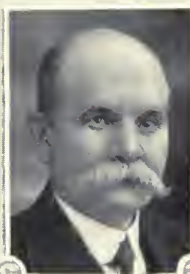
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List of Delegates and Representatives Present at the Congress.

(1) Representatives from other Bodies, &c.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.—Mr. A. Williams and Mr. H. J. May.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS.—Mr. C. W. Bowerman.

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.—Messrs. C. W. Crook and E. W. Jones.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.—Mr. J. J. Dent

(2) Members of the Central Board, other than those delegated by Societies.

IRISH EXECUTIVE.—Messrs. J. Palmer (Portadown) and R. Fleming (Secretary).

MIDLAND SECTION.—Messrs. G. Bastard (Leicester), J. Butcher (Rugby), S. Butler (Long Eaton), W. J. Douse (Nottingham), G. Harris (Lincoln), J. Langley (Kettering), W. Millerchip (Walsall), J. Millington (Birmingham), F. Rankin (Derby), J. G. Shacklock (East Kirkby), and C. A. W. Saxton (Secretary).

NORTHERN SECTION.—Messrs. J. C. Aiston (Newcastle-on-Tyne), G. Bedford (Middlesbrough), J. Davison (Bedlington), S. Galbraith (Durham), J. Murdoch (Workington), W. R. Rae (Sunderland), W. Scott (Blaydon-on-Tyne), W. Crooks (Hon. Member), and W. Clayton (Secretary).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. E. Booth (Thongsbridge), E. Derbyshire (Crewe), W. Dewhurst (Colne), S. Fairbrother (Bolton), S. R. Foster (Bingley), G. Goodenough (Castleford), J. Greenwood (Hebden Bridge), W. Gregory (Preston), J. W. Hargreaves (Haslingden), S. C. Hughes (Brymbo), J. Johnston (Manchester), J. Pollitt (Swinton), T. Redfearn (Heckmondwike), H. Stuttard (Royton), W. Swindlehurst (Barrow-in-Furness), J. Thompson (Ashton-under-Lyne), B. Wolfenden (Rochdale), A. J. Wroe (Barnsley), G. Wheelhouse (Hon Member), and J. Bradshaw (Secretary).

SCOTTISH SECTION.—Messrs. J. Allan (Glasgow), J. Lucas (Shettleston), A. Purdie (Edinburgh), J. M. Wilkie (Greenock), G. Wilson (Bannockburn), J. Deans (Secretary), and D. H. Gerrard (Hon. Member).

SOUTHERN SECTION.—Messrs. W. T. Charter (Cambridge), M. H. Clear (Sheerness), Mrs. M. A. Gasson (London, W.), Messrs. A. W. Golightly (London, E.), A. Hainsworth (Woolwich), R. Rowsell (Reading), W. J. Salmon (Colchester), and B. Williams (Secretary).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. H. J. Drake (Plymouth), R. R. Prynn (Dartmouth), C. W. Ugrow (Plymouth), W. H. Watkins (Plymouth), and W. J. Gilbert (Secretary).

WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. W. H. Bryant (Blaenavon), R. R. Chappell (Gloucester), D. Evans (Tredegar), E. R. Wood (Ton Pentre), D. Williams (Swansea), and J. R. Davies (Secretary).

GENERAL SECRETARY.—Mr. A. Whitehead.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Mr. T. Horrocks.

CASHIER.—Mr. N. H. Cooper.

EDUCATION SECRETARY.—Mr. C. E. Wood.

ADVISER OF STUDIES.—Mr. F. Hall, M.A.

(3) Delegates from Societies and Conference Associations.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
1 Aberdare	Davies, T. A.
"	Protheroe, G. R.
"	Thomas, D.
2 Aberdeen Northern	Bisset, G.
"	Keir, J.
3 Abersychan and Talywain	Beard, J.
"	Davey, H.
"	Heaven, G.
4 Accrington and Church	Brownbill, G.
5 Addlestone	Gray, R. T.
6 Airedale Worsted Manufacturing	Atkins, W.
7 Alcester	Chatterley, A. J.
"	Cund, E.
"	Johnson, A. H.
8 Allerton	Hird, J. W.
9 Alloa	McBeath, W. H.
"	Snaden, F. W.
10 Andrews Watch Manufacturing	Andrews, W.
11 Annesley Woodhouse	Pincham, J.
12 Annfield Plain	Clish, W.
"	Ecclestone, W.
13 Ashford	Cotterell, Mrs. A.
14 Ashington Industrial	Clark, C.
"	Robson, J. T.
"	Snow, S.
15 Ashton-under-Lyne	Broadbent, L.
"	Broadbent, Mrs. L.
"	Lawton, W.
"	Lawton, Mrs. W.
"	Wood, W.
"	Wood, Mrs. W.
16 Aspatria	Allan, I.
"	Hanabury, T.
17 Avonbank	Dunbar, J.
18 Aylesbury	Standing, F.
19 Banbury	Savin, C.
"	Golby, G. E.
"	Lickorish, W. H.
"	Webb, J.
20 Bannockburn	Moore, J.
21 Barnsley	Bell, G.
"	Gilligan, M.
"	Jones, S.
"	Secley, T.
"	Tune, E.
"	Whitham, C. E.
22 Barrhead	Murray, Mrs. M.
"	Reid, W.
23 Barrow-in-Furness	Averay, F.
"	Clark, Mrs. M.
"	Duerden, P.
"	Hillier, H.
"	Kimberley, E.
"	Pinkney, Mrs. N.
24 Barry and District	Jones, J. W.
25 Barwell	Carter, A.
"	Needham, Mrs. A.
26 Bathgate	Wilson, W.
27 Batley	Greenwood, Mrs. L.
"	Fraggatt, J.
"	Kershaw, Mrs. J. A.
"	Kersey, G.
"	Smeeton, W. J.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
28 Bedford	Cobb, Mrs. F. R.
"	Crowder, T. A.
29 Belfast	Finlay, R. J.
"	Gowdy, R. J.
"	Harrison, J.
"	M'Guffin, W. J.
"	Moore, S. J.
"	Thompson, D.
30 Bellshill and Mossend	MacPherson, J.
"	Wilkinson, W.
31 Berkhamsted	Ford, F.
32 Bingley	Denby, J.
"	Hartley, H. B.
"	Hartley, W.
"	Royston, A.
33 Birkenhead	Beattie, Mrs. S. J.
"	Ellis, Mrs. E.
"	Gresty, W. B.
"	Martin, W.
"	Read, W.
"	Settle, W.
34 Birkenshaw	Broscombe, W.
"	Bryan, H.
"	Clough, E.
"	Lightfoot, J. W.
35 Birmingham Industrial	Andrews, Mrs. A.
"	Cornforth, F.
"	Doidge, E. J.
"	Freeman, Mrs. A.
"	Hcnson, J.
"	Morley, T. C.
36 " Printers	Dewsbury, C. W.
37 Birstall	Carbutt, R. W.
"	Wailles, H.
38 Birtley	Foster, W.
"	Oliver, B.
"	Oliver, Mrs. B.
"	Richardson, W. P.
"	Richardson, Mrs. W. P.
39 Bishop Auckland	Hall, J.
"	Hall, Mrs. J.
"	Hindmarch, J.
"	Parkin, G.
40 Blackburn—Daisyfield	Hindle, R.
"	Lavelle, W.
"	Smethurst, H.
41 " Grimshaw Park	Braithwaite, W. I.
"	Sandford, R.
42 " Industrial	Sharples, J.
"	Sharples, Mrs. J.
43 Blackpool	Barker, J.
"	Haworth, E.
44 " Printers	Maddison, F.
45 Blaenavon	Davies, I.
"	Evans, O.
"	Parker, W. A.
46 Blaina	Jefferies, J.
"	Jones, T.
"	Lloyd, J. D.
"	Oriel, W.
"	Parry, T.
"	Rhydderch, J.
47 Blantyre	Clark, A.
"	Muir, W.
48 Blaydon-on-Tyne	Garland, P.
"	Watson, J.
"	Wilson, J. T.
49 Bolsover	Dodsworth, J. G.
"	Halfpenny, W.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
50 Boldon	Curry, W.
51 Bolton	Gascoigne, J. J.
"	Bentley, W.
"	Clegg, R.
"	Partington, W.
"	Radford, G.
"	Richardson, G. H.
52 Boston	Sagar, J. H.
"	Brown, J.
53 Bradford	Salmon, R.
"	Denman, F.
"	Duce, F.
"	Hodgson, H.
"	Illingworth, S.
"	Preece, F.
54 " Cabinet Makers	Rennison, E.
55 Brandon and Byshottles	Greenwood, W.
"	Bloomfield, W.
56 Brechin United	Hall, G.
"	Findlay, G.
"	Hendry, J. C.
57 Brecon	McLeod, F.
58 Bridgwater	Davies, Rev. J.
"	Earwood, F. W.
59 Brierfield	Westbury, H.
"	Farrington, J.
60 Brighouse	Lee, J.
"	Aspinall, A.
"	Barraclough, J. T.
"	Ibbetson, C. H.
"	Kellett, J.
"	Rukin, E. E.
61 Brighton	Rukin, Mrs. E. E.
"	Dallaway, W.
"	Dallaway, Mrs. W.
"	Gibbins, F. A.
"	Webber, G.
62 Brightside and Carbrook	Wilkinson, W. A.
"	Ager, Mrs. S. E.
"	Barton, Mrs. E.
"	Gill, J.
"	Senior, H.
"	Skinner, S. J.
"	Thraves, F.
63 Bristol	Ball, W. T.
"	Found, Mrs. M.
"	Griffin, W. B.
"	Marks, J.
64 " Printers	Whitehead, S.
65 Bromley and Crays	Mundy, E. W.
"	Dunford, J.
"	Dunford, J. H.
"	Dunford, Mrs. J. H.
"	Wood, C.
66 Broughton Astley	Wood, Mrs. C.
67 Buckhaven	Dear, W. F.
"	Birrell, A.
68 Bulwell	Crook, R. W.
"	Menzies, Mrs. H. J.
69 Burbage	Naylor, J.
70 Burnbank	Kirby, W. E.
71 Burnley	Bryce, M.
"	Alton, R.
"	Astbury, Mrs. E.
"	Greenwood, W. T.
"	Pickup, A.
"	Midgley, T.
72 " Self Help	Nicholls, J.
73 Burslem	Wood, T.
"	Brooks, G. W.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
73 Burslem	Maskrey, T.
"	Rowley, F.
74 Burton Latimer	Stokes, C.
75 Burton-on-Trent	Baker, Mrs.
"	Hicks, F. B.
"	Johnson, G. H.
"	Johnson, Mrs. G. H.
"	Norton, J.
"	Thompson, C.
76 Bury	Hill, J. C.
"	Hill, Mrs. J. C.
"	Walker, J. W.
"	Walker, Mrs. J. W.
77 Buttershaw	Oldfield, Mrs. C.
78 Cainscross and Ebley	Hudson, B.
"	Miles, T.
"	Warner, E.
79 Cambridge	Charter, Mrs. W. T.
"	Hall, W. V.
"	Hume, R. T.
80 Carlisle	Gibson, J.
"	Nicholson, Wm.
81 Chard	Boon, T.
"	Delling, T.
82 Chatham	Davies, Wm.
83 Chelmsford	Clift, C.
"	James, A. W.
84 Chepstow	Kirton, G.
85 Chesham	Saunders, H.
"	Stratford, G. A.
86 " Boot and Shoe	Butler, W. V.
87 Chester	Holland, Mrs.
"	Smith, Mrs. O.
88 Chesterfield	Reid, A. B.
"	Wicks, W.
89 Chester-le-Street	Burnip, M.
"	Hollins, T.
"	Nesbit, J.
90 Chipping Norton	Carrington, J.
"	Eden, C. T.
"	Jackson, W. E.
91 Chorley	Forshaw, J.
"	Kirkman, W.
92 Cinderford	Holden, J.
"	Perkins, M. H.
93 Cinderhill	Askew, W.
"	Simpson, T.
94 Clayton	Bennett, C.
95 Clayton-le-Moors	Dean, G.
"	Sharples, A.
96 Cleator Moor	Batson, W.
"	Blackburn, W.
"	Mavir, T.
"	Walton, R.
"	Whelan, J.
97 Cleckheaton	Brown, J.
"	Eades, H.
"	Wilcock, Mrs. R.
98 Close Hill	Raisey, J.
99 Clydebank	Hunter, Mrs. M.
"	McClune, C.
"	Rae, Mrs. J.
100 Coalville	Armson, M. H. G.
"	Grosert, T.
"	Haywood, O.
"	Reesby, H.
"	Sparrow, J. J.
101 Coatbridge	Howarth, L.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
101 Coatbridge	Luke, R. G.
"	Orr, J.
102 Codnor Park and Ironville	Prentice, R. M.
103 Codnor Park and Selston Baking	Naylor, M.
104 Colchester and East Essex	Hays, F.
"	Cater, A. E.
"	Seaborn, H.
"	Stollery, W. C.
105 Colne	Stollery, Mrs. W. C.
"	Astley, W.
"	Bank, W. H.
"	Eccles, J.
106 Colne Vale Corn Millers	Osborne, W.
107 Compstall	Pogson, T. E.
"	Hewitt, A.
108 Congleton	Wilkinson, G. J.
"	Harris, J.
"	Holden, H.
"	Pickford, E.
109 Consett	Redfern, H.
"	Dawson, W.
"	Goudie, H.
110 Co-operative Insurance	Hyden, R. J.
"	Mort, I.
"	Odgers, J.
111 Co-operative Laundries (Wallsend)	Williams, F. A.
112 Co-operative Newspaper	Wade, Wm., jun.
"	Bayne, J.
"	Blakeborough, S.
"	Elliott, J.
113 Co-operative Printing	Rigby, T.
"	Ince, G. A. R.
"	Magin, J.
114 Co-operative Productive Federation	Taylor, A.
115 Co-operative Secretaries' Association	Halstead, R.
116 Co-operative Sundries Manufacturing (Droylsden)	Briggs, G.
117 Co-operative Wholesale	Yates, J. S.
"	Adams, T.
"	Allen, T. W.
"	Brodrick, T.
"	Coley, P.
"	Dudley, W. E.
"	Elsey, H.
"	Golightly, A. W.
"	Graham, E. J.
"	Grindrod, E.
"	Hayhurst, G.
"	Hemingway, W.
"	Henson, T. J.
"	Holt, R.
"	Lander, W.
"	McInnes, D.
"	Moorhouse, T. E.
"	Pingstone, H. C.
"	Shotton, T. E.
"	Thorpe, G.
"	Threadgill, A. E.
"	Woodhouse, G.
118 Coventry Builders	Marston, W.
119 " Perseverance	Clay, J.
"	Corrie, Mrs. A. E.
"	Crompton, J.
"	Harris, J.
"	Harris, T. J.
"	Wood, W. E.
120 Cowdenbeath	Gray, C.
"	Innes, R.
121 Cowlairs	Addison, J. H.
"	Bain, K.
"	Hardie, A.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
122 Cramlington	Absalom, C.
123 Crewe	Sims, G.
"	Bithell, J.
"	Bourne, J.
"	Brookes, H.
"	Brookes, Mrs. H.
"	Hurstfield, W.
"	Steele, H.
124 Crofthead	Nimmo, H.
125 Cromer	Utting, A. J.
126 Crompton Boot Manufacturers	Cox, W. A.
127 Crosland Moor	Dawson, Mrs. R.
128 Croxley	Irwin, E.
129 Croydon	Ashdown, W. H.
"	Church, E. J.
"	Wootton, Mrs. E.
130 Cwmbach	Bowen, D.
"	George, W. H.
"	Jones, E.
"	Lloyd, J.
"	Rowlands, G.
"	Thomas, T.
131 Cwmgorse	Howells, G. J.
132 Cwmtillery	Bibey, W.
"	Warren, E.
133 Cwmbwrla	Davies, Mrs. J. R.
134 Dalton-in-Furness	Varcoe, J. T. S.
135 Dalziel	Brown, G.
"	Jack, D.
136 Darlington	Ferguson, Mrs. M.
"	McLeish, P.
"	Potts, W. D.
"	Stevenson, D.
137 Dartford	Riches, J. B.
"	Turnbull, W. T.
138 Daventry	Murdin, D.
139 Delabole	Pearce, R.
140 Delph	Cottrell, W.
141 Denholme	Holden, H.
142 Denton	Jones, T.
143 Derby	Birks, Mrs. R.
"	Blackley, C.
"	Draper, Mrs. A. J.
"	Holness, Mrs. J.
"	Manning, W. D.
144 " Printers	Mason, A.
145 Derwent Flour Mill	Cuthbertson, Wm.
146 Desborough	Marlow, J.
"	Panter, S.
147 Dewsbury Co-operative Laundry	Cocker, S. R.
148 " Pioneers	Bailey, Mrs. P.
"	Gillbanks, F.
"	Gillbanks, Mrs. F.
"	Schofield, J. W.
"	Schofield, Mrs. J. W.
"	Senior, A. C.
149 Doncaster	Adams, F.
"	May, S. S.
"	Shaw, Mrs. S.
"	Tretheway, S.
"	Wightman, C.
"	Wilson, J.
150 Dublin Industrial	Byrne, L. P.
151 Dudley	Evans, I.
"	Evans, Mrs. I.
"	Pearson, B.
152 Dumbarton	Hutchinson, W. A.
153 Dundalk	M'Alister, A.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
154 Dunfermline	Air, T.
"	Crochet, W. A.
155 Dysart	Davie, J.
"	Terris, A.
156 Ealing Tenants	Brown, W. H.
157 Earls Barton	Sheffield, C. H.
158 East Cleveland	Codling, A.
"	Fenby, S.
159 Eastleigh	Postle, R.
160 Ebbw Vale	Boyer, J.
"	Edwards, T.
161 Eccles Provident	Patimore, W. T.
"	Ashworth, Mrs. A.
"	Battersby, C.
"	Evans, D. B.
"	Hudson, J. H.
"	Pollitt, R.
162 Edinburgh—St. Cuthbert's	Tyldesley, J.
"	Cairns, J.
"	Clunie, J.
"	Heriot, Mrs. J.
"	Mackenzie, J.
"	McNair, J.
163 Edmonton	Smart, J.
"	Brown, Mrs. M.
"	Elliott, E.
"	Hoskins, W. H.
"	Kidd, Miss H.
"	Todd, J.
164 Egremont	Whiskin, Mrs. N.
"	Garnett, W.
165 Ely	Kelly, P.
166 Emley	Touch, B.
167 Enderby	Kidd, J.
168 Enfield Highway (London)	Timson, G.
169 Erping	Hood, Mrs. E. D.
170 Exeter	Withers, Mrs. E. L.
"	Plumb, A.
"	Havdon, R.
171 Failsworth	Clough, J. F.
"	Pownall, P.
172 Farnham	Ashwell, W. T.
173 Farnworth and Kearsley	Isherwood, S. B.
"	Jones, A.
"	Paynter, J. O.
"	Rigg, A.
"	Robinson, E.
174 Faversham	Smith, S. P.
"	Smith, Mrs. S. P.
175 Felling Industrial	Goodfellow, M. W.
"	Major, T. C.
176 Finedon	Benson, J.
177 Fleckney	Reeve, R.
178 Fleetwood	Fritchley, G. E.
"	Marginson, T.
"	Wood, J.
179 Folkestone	Dennis, A. J.
180 Gainsborough	Bacon, Sir H. B.
"	Bart.
"	Dumont, E.
"	Joel, E. G. A.
181 Galashiels United	Wilkinson, E.
"	Brownlee, R.
"	Little, Mrs. T.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
182 Garden City Press	Williams, Mrs. B.
183 Gateshead	Baldock, H. G.
"	Brack, J.
"	Kennedy, D.
184 Gillingham	Baxter, A.
"	Friend, G. T.
"	Gill, J.
185 Glenfield Boot and Shoe	Brewin, J. H.
186 Glasgow—Eastern	Browning, W.
"	Gibson, J.
187 " Drapery and Furnishing	Buchanan, G.
"	Gardiner, A. S.
"	Gardiner, Mrs. A. S.
"	Waugh, J.
188 " Kinning Park	Colquhoun, R. K.
"	Hart, J.
"	Kinghorn, G.
"	Martin, A. W.
"	Martin, Mrs. A. W.
189 " London Road	Aitken, F.
"	McLuckie, H.
190 " Progress	Mackie, W.
"	Rankin, D.
191 " St. George	Cross, W.
"	Lees, T.
"	Lees, Mrs. T.
"	Logan, J.
"	Norval, Mrs. A.
192 " St. Rollox	Archibald, G.
"	Davidson, N. M.
193 " United Baking	Cadiz, M. H.
"	Hunter, M.
"	Pagan, S. W.
"	Stevenson, J.
"	Watson, E.
"	Young, J.
194 Glenfield	York, T.
195 Glossop Dale	Braddock, G.
196 Gloucester	Butler, Mrs. E.
"	Critchley, Mrs. E.
"	Jackson, J. T.
"	Jackson, Mrs. J. T.
"	Matthias, W.
"	Wakefield, S.
197 Godalming	Bridger, E.
"	Colpus, H.
198 Golcar	Mellor, S.
199 Gomersal	Howarth, A.
200 Goole	Holmes, L.
"	Holmes, Mrs. L.
"	Jackson, W.
201 Grantham	Bradshaw, W.
"	Coldron, A.
"	Woodruff, C.
202 Grays	Bannister, Mrs. E.
"	Fowler, G.
"	Moore, G. J.
"	Scaife, W.
"	Scaife, Mrs. W.
"	Thompson, F.
203 Great Grimsby	Blackburn, Mrs. H.
"	Halliwell, J.
"	Rawlings, D. D.
204 Great Harwood	Melling, J.
"	Smith, W.
205 Great Horton	Craven, F.
"	Haigh, W. A.
"	Hardwick, J.
"	Hodgson, H.
"	Noole, J.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
205 Great Horton	Scott, E.
206 Great Wigston	Broughton, R.
"	Stanton, J. T.
207 Greenfield	Wood, A.
208 Greenock	Henderson, R.
"	Ritchie, R.
"	Sprone, N.
209 Guildford	Mayers, Mrs. A.
"	Spooner H. J.
210 Guisboro'	Smith, J.
"	Smith, Mrs. J.
211 Guiseley	Crowther, A.
"	Hogg, E.
212 Halifax Flour	Aveyard, H.
"	Hattersley, J.
"	Riley, J.
213 " Industrial	Carter, A. B.
"	Inston, J.
"	Noble, J.
"	Smith, D.
"	Thorpe, J.
"	Turner, S.
214 Haltwhistle	Dryden, T.
215 Hamilton Baking	Forbes, J.
216 " Central	Clelland, A.
"	Waddell, D.
217 Harrogate	I'Anson, F.
218 Hartlepool	Clennett, E.
"	Davidson, G.
"	Hewison, R.
"	Murray, Mrs. J.
"	Wilkin, Mrs. E. H.
219 Hasland	Hudson, T. M.
220 Haslemere	Cooper, Miss L. H.
221 Haslingden	Hargreaves, R.
"	Wallwork, J. T.
222 Haswell	Thompson, T.
223 Hathern	Hunt, S.
224 Hawick	Gass, Mrs. G.
225 Hebden Bridge Industrial	Ellison, T.
226 " " Fustian	Halstead, J.
"	Ainley, A.
"	Hitchin, A.
"	Morgan, T.
227 Heckmondwike	Hall, R.
"	Hepworth, B.
"	Jacques, Mrs. A. C.
"	Parker, J.
"	Parker, Mrs. J.
"	Redfearn, Mrs. T.
228 " Dyeing	Wilcock, R.
229 Hemel Hempstead	Herbert, Miss E. M.
230 Hendon	Clarke, E.
"	Stevens, H.
231 Heywood	Barlow, J.
"	Birch, S.
"	Chadwick, R.
232 Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe	Walker, F.
233 Higher Hurst	Beech, Wm. H.
"	Harrison, G. C.
234 Hinckley	Gittens, A. H.
"	Grimes, C.
"	Mason, W.
235 Horbury	Fallas, A.
"	Rigg, M.
236 Horwich	Carroll, J.
"	Russell, A. E.
"	Stell, R. J.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
237 Hucknall Torkard.....	Cale, W.
" "	Collins, J.
" "	Fowkes, J.
238 Huddersfield "	Pugh, J. H.
" "	Atkinson, G.
" "	Bland, J.
" "	Etchells, C. E.
" "	Hamer, J.
" "	Lee, F.
239 Hull "	Lodge, E.
" "	Boyes, W.
" "	Boynton, A. J.
" "	Edmond, Mrs. E.
240 Huncote	Maidens, M. A.
241 Hyde	Hunt, J.
" "	Booth, A. H.
" "	Lees, H.
" "	Shaw, A.
242 Ideal Clothiers (Wellingboro')	Butler, B.
243 Ilkeston "	Dorr J. M.
" "	McIntyre, D.
" "	Page, S.
244 Ipswich "	Webster, J. H.
" "	Bird, T.
" "	Foster, G. N.
" "	Hadgraft, J.
" "	Malden, T. R.
" "	Osborne, W.
245 Irish Agricultural Wholesale	Prentice, W. S.
246 Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale	Smith, R. M.
	Roberts, W.
247 Jarrow and Hebburn	Clayton, A.
" "	Ferguson, G.
248 Keighley	Brown, C. H.
" "	Clarke, R.
" "	Gill, T.
" "	Hartley, G. W.
" "	Laycock, F.
249 " Laundries	Nixon, W.
250 Kendal "	Moulding, B.
" "	Ewan, T. J.
251 Kettering Boot and Shoe	Gregson, C. H.
" "	Toseland, W.
252 " Clothing "	Wood, A. J.
" "	Daniels, H.
253 " Corset "	Wilson, W.
254 " Industrial	Law, L.
" "	Ballard, W.
" "	Bone, A.
" "	Harding, T.
" "	Panther, T.
" "	Potter, H. J.
" "	Winsor, H. A.
255 " Union Boot and Shoe	Evans, H.
256 Keyworth	Neate, H. D.
257 Kidderminster	Paton, H.
" "	Walters, W.
258 Kilbirnie	Anderson, Mrs. W.
259 Killamarsh	Allen, H.
260 Kilmarnock	Brown, R.
" "	Currihan, J.
261 Kilnhurst	Russell, A.
262 King's Lynn	Furbank, A.
" "	Stanford, J. W.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
263 King's Cross Publishing	Alcock, G. W.
264 Kippax	Tillotson, J. W.
265 Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Cope, H.
"	Greasley, S.
"	Morrell, J.
266 " Manufacturing	Strutt, C. F.
267 Lancaster	Benson, J.
"	Hoggarth, W.
"	Moore, R. B.
"	Parkinson, R.
"	Varley, A.
"	Woods, T.
268 Lane Dyehouse	Mallinson, F.
269 Langley Mill and Aldercar	Green, O. J.
" " "	Smith, J.
" " "	Wagstaffe, P.
" " "	Watson, J. E.
" " "	Wyld, A.
270 Leeds Industrial	Hollings, J. W.
" "	Manley, A. E.
" "	Marsden, T.
" "	Maylin, W.
" "	Richards, Mrs. M. A.
" "	Smith, J.
271 Leek and Moorlands	Carding, J. J.
" "	Mitchell, S.
272 Leicester	Cooper, J. H.
"	James, G.
"	Lucas, S. A.
"	Pywell, Mrs. J.
"	Turner, W.
"	Worley, J. J.
273 " Anchor Tenants	Welford, J. S.
274 " Anchor Boot and Shoe	Rowlett, F.
275 " Boot and Shoe	Clay, J.
" "	Jones, C.
276 " Carriage Builders	Carter, T. W.
277 " Morning Star Sundries	Bent, E.
278 " Printers	Drinkwater, S.
279 " Self-Help Boot and Shoe	Bodicoat, J.
280 " Small Holders	Chawner, F.
281 Leigh	Bardsley, J. E.
"	Page, S.
"	Ratcliffe, J. S.
"	Smith, J.
282 Leven Valley	Cain, J. J.
283 Lincoln	Bacon, G.
"	Goldstein, W. H.
"	Harley, G.
"	Howard, W. B.
"	Roberts, W.
"	Worth, D.
284 " Land and Building	Boulton, F. W.
285 Lisburn	Barbour, H. M.
286 Littleborough	Cook, C. A.
"	Haigh, J.
287 Liverpool	Daniels, Mrs. J.
"	Edwards, J. A.
"	Edwards, Mrs. J. A.
"	Houseman, F.
"	Wilcox, Mrs. A.
288 Llanelli	Williams, G.
289 Lochgelly	Kerr, Mrs. M.
290 Lockhurst Lane	Cattell, W. H.
" "	Hilton, E.
" "	Wickes, G. A.
291 London—Agricultural and Horticultural	Greening, E. O.
" " "	Greening, Mrs. E. O.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
291 London—Agricultural and Horticultural.....	Neale, Sir H. J. Vansittart
292 „ Agricultural Organisation	Harris, J. N.
293 „ Anchor	Bauer, E.
294 „ Civil Service Supply	Barber, J.
„ „ „	Bignall, J. E.
„ „ „	Cogman, W. H.
295 „ Clothiers	Taylor, G.
296 „ Co-operative Bass Dressers.....	Foster, W. J.
297 „ Co-operative Permanent Building.....	Mansbridge, A.
„ „ „	Webb, A.
„ „ „	Webb, Miss C.
298 „ Perseverance	Barnes, T. E.
299 Long Buckby	Frisby, J. G.
300 Long Eaton.....	Alvey, G.
„	Bailey, J.
„	Dawson, T.
„	Edinburgh, T. H.
„	Newbury, E. R.
301 „ Printing	Pattison, L.
„	Edinburgh, Mrs. T. H.
302 Longridge	Helm, W.
„	Mercer, A.
303 Longwood	Brearley, C.
304 Loughboro'	Cross, F.
305 Lowestoft.....	Hewett, J. A.
„	Hewett, Mrs. J. A.
306 Luddendenfoot	Whitworth, J. A.
307 Luton	Knight, S.
„	Warren, A.
308 Macclesfield	Earl, I.
„	Kearsley, T.
„	Knight, J.
„	Swinson, J.
309 „ Silk Manufacturing	Moss, J.
310 Maldon and Heybridge	Pinyoun, C.
311 Manchester and District Laundries.....	Gibson, Mrs. D.
312 Manchester and Salford	Atkinson, W. A.
„ „	Clarke, T. J.
„ „	Gibson, D.
„ „	Maxwell, A.
„ „	Robinson, E. W.
„ „	Smith, J. R.
313 Manchester Tenants	Whiteley, Mrs. E.
314 Mansfield and Sutton	Gill, G.
„ „	Jones, A. J.
„ „	Morley, C. W.
„ „	Peel, A.
„ „	Walker, J.
„ „	Wilson, A.
315 Market Harborough	Bailey, J.
„ „	Coe, J.
„ „	Wadsworth, G.
316 Market Weighton.....	Frankland, P.
317 Marsden	Tinker, H.
318 Maryport	Atkinson, W.
„	Ferguson, G.
„	Robinson, J.
„	Thompson, R.
„	Whinn, J.
319 Masbro'.....	Caine, G. E.
„	Copley, W.
„	Corker, E.
„	Mills, A. D.
„	Schofield, J.
„	Schofield, Mrs. J.
320 Melton Mowbray	Brooke, J. H.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
320 Melton Mowbray	Ward, W.
321 Merthyr	Eastwood, G. H.
322 Methil	Cook, D.
323 Middlesbrough	Ferren, J. W.
"	Hewitson, Mrs. M.
"	Lynn, F.
"	Neasham, W.
"	Steel, S.
"	Telford, J.
324 Middleton and Tongo	Surrag, T.
"	Wolstenholme, R.
325 Midgley	Jones, D.
326 Midland Boot Manufacturers, Wellingborough	Croxen, C.
327 Midland Woodworkers	Wilson, H.
328 Mid-Rhondda	Rees, T.
329 Millom	Craghill, R.
"	Britton-Jones, W.
330 Milngavie	Logan, J.
331 Mirfield Industrial	Newsome, S.
"	Rawlinson, Mrs. J. E.
332 " Perseverance	Blackburn, J. T.
333 Morley	Broadhead, S.
"	Fothergill, D.
"	Kaye, G.
"	Kendall, C.
"	Proctor, T. H.
"	Souden, T.
334 Moulton	James, Mrs. G. T.
335 Mount Sorrel	Wykes, A. R.
336 Musselburgh and Fisherrow	Heron, W.
"	Semple, S.
337 Nantymoel	Lewis, H.
338 Nelson	Hopkins, J.
"	Murton, J.
"	Myers, Mrs. C.
"	Phillip, F. C.
339 Netherfield	Breward, W.
"	Widdowson, A.
340 Newark	Albone, E.
"	Dale, C. H.
341 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	Ibson, J.
"	Mills, R. J.
342 Newbottle	Orwin, J.
"	Warnes, W.
343 Newcastle-on-Tyne	Briggs, R.
"	Donald, D.
"	Elliott, J.
"	Thwaites, J. W.
344 New Cumnock	Scott, J.
345 Newhaven	Baker, B. H.
346 Newport (Mon.)	Davies, E.
"	Davidson, J.
"	Harrison, J.
"	Squire, L. M.
347 New Swindon Industrial	Davies, Mrs. F.
"	Haynes, F.
"	Lowes, J.
"	Palmer, C. R.
348 Northampton	Dartnell, Mrs. P.
"	Hornsey, A. H.
"	Stanton, F.
349 " Productive	Green, F.
350 North-Western Educational Committees	Couldwell, E.
351 Northern	Kirton, M.
352 Norwich	Ashby, H. W.
"	Smith, G.
"	Smith, Mrs. G.
353 Nottingham	Attenborough, W.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.

DELEGATES.

353 Nottingham.....	Bowles, H. E.
"	Brown, S. H.
"	Towlson, J.
354 "	Young, H.
"	Sadler, G. M.
355 Nuneaton.....	Andrew, G. W.
"	Hewitt, T.
"	Hill, W.
"	Hubbard, T.
"	Roberts, A.
"	Swingler, C. W.
356 Oadby	Butler, W.
357 Oakengates.....	Gee, W.
358 Oldham Equitable	Hadfield, R.
"	Kershaw, J.
"	Stuttard, Mrs. H.
"	Turner, J. E.
359 " Industrial	Dawson, W.
"	Williamson, T.
360 Olney.....	Goldsmith, Mrs. C.
361 Ossett	Lucas, G.
"	Lucas, Mrs. G.
"	Smith, C. S.
"	Smith, Mrs. C. S.
362 Oxford	Dingle, R.
"	Bolton, E. M.
"	Ramsey, T.
"	Young, Mrs. E.
363 Paisley Equitable	Wallace, J.
"	Wallace, Mrs. J.
364 " Manufacturing	Cadiz, Mrs. M. H.
"	Kirkwood, J.
"	Kirkwood, Mrs. J.
"	Paton, Mrs. J.
"	Stirling, J.
"	Stirling, Mrs. J.
365 " Provident.....	Flockhart, A.
"	Glen, R.
"	McAllister, A.
"	McDade, J.
"	Thompson, W.
"	Turner, W.
366 " Underwood Coal ..	Martin, G.
367 Parkestone and Bournemouth.....	Cox, C.
"	Empson, J. J.
"	Preston, Mrs. L.
368 Pegswood	Nichol, G. R.
369 Penarth	James, R.
"	Seig, E. J.
370 Pendleton	Broadhurst, Mrs. A. M.
"	Collinge, F. R.
"	Fell, T.
"	Horricks, A.
"	Moran, J.
"	Nevitt, Mrs. M. A.
371 Penge and Beckenham	Pamment, J.
"	Webb, Mrs. A. A.
"	Mann, A.
372 Pensilva	Prynn, Mrs. R. R.
373 Penzance	Woodhouse, W.
374 Perth (City of)	McNeill, W. L.
"	Morrison, P.
"	Paton, J.
375 " Coal	Hood, W.
376 Peterborough.....	Bocock, J.
"	Brown, J.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
376 Peterborough	Laxton, T.
"	Taylor, J. W.
"	Ward, W. T.
"	York, J. T.
377 Pioneer Boot Works	Webster, J. G.
378 Planet Mutual Insurance	Penny, J.
379 Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	Edwards, T.
"	Hallam, W.
380 Plymouth	Adams, W.
"	Gordon, R. S.
"	Lethbridge, C. H.
"	Lucock, J. H.
"	Drake, Mrs. W. H. H.
"	Wonnacott, A. E.
381 " Printers	Worley, Mrs. S.
382 Pocklington	Haw, G. W.
383 Pollokshaws	Breckenridge, Mrs. A.
"	Walmsley, M.
384 Pontardulais	Thomas, H.
385 Preston	Gill, R. T.
"	Gorton, J.
"	Guest, T.
"	Holden, B.
386 Prestwich	Briggs, N.
"	Briggs, Miss
"	Marston, J.
"	Whittaker, R. H.
387 Qucensbury	Nowell, M.
"	Parkinson, J.
388 Radcliffe and Pilkington	Emery, E.
"	Mangnall, W.
"	Pollard, G.
389 Radstock	Biggs, W. S.
"	Gent, J. W.
390 Ramsgate	Bishenden, T.
391 Ratby	Hunt, G. S.
392 Raunds District	Lawrence, R.
"	Miller, F. W.
393 Reading	Finn, J. G.
"	Rourke, C. L.
"	Rowsell, Mrs. R.
"	Wright, J.
394 Rhodes	Clarke, J.
"	Smithies, W.
395 Ripley	Bunting, J.
"	Fearn, T.
"	Searson, W. H.
396 Ripponden	Lumb, J.
397 River and District (Dover)	Dowle, Miss H.
"	Grant, Miss M.
"	Thorogood, Miss J.
"	Watson, G. T. G.
398 Rochdale Pioneers	Crabtree, J.
"	Schofield, W. H.
"	Trippear, B.
"	Trippear, Mrs. B.
"	Woolfenden, Miss S.
399 Rothwell	Coe, C.
400 Rugby	Bell, F.
"	Cooke, G. A.
"	Gibson, F. G.
"	Gibson, S. G.
"	Harley, R. C.
"	Hardman, W. F.
401 Runcorn and Widnes	Barber, T.
"	Glover, W. R.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
401 Runcorn and Widnes	Leathwood, W.
" "	Millington, W.
" "	Shaw, J. J.
402 Rushden	Berrill, F.
" "	Haigh, J.
" "	Webb, Mrs. A.
403 St. Helens	Lawrenson, T.
" "	Newing, J.
404 Sandbach	Blease, F. T.
" "	Gibson, W.
405 Scarborough	Stubbs, W.
406 Scarwood Coal	Rotbery, H.
407 Scottish Co-operative Laundry	Campbell, R.
408 " Co-operative Veterans ..	Norval, A.
409 " Co-operative Wholesale Society	Andrew, J.
" " " "	Ferguson, J.
" " " "	Gass, G.
" " " "	Glasse, P.
" " " "	Kerr, A.
" " " "	Little, T.
" " " "	Pearson, J.
" " " "	Ralston, T. N.
" " " "	Stewart, R.
" " " "	Thomson, G.
" " " "	Watson, R.
" " " "	Young, J.
410 " Co-operator	Murray, R.
411 Scunthorpe	Bond, F.
412 Selston	Thompson, S.
413 Senghenydd and Aber Valley	Bailey, T. H.
414 Shanklin Lake and Branstone	Lowe, G.
415 Sheerness	Clear, Mrs. M. H.
" "	Collins, F. M.
416 Sheffield and Ecclesall	Baggaley, J.
" "	Buckley, W.
" "	Sandford, R.
" "	Shaw, T.
" "	Walton, A.
417 " Cutlery	Wilson, S. J.
418 " Federated Cutlers	Knights, W.
419 Shepshed	Tomlinson, A.
" "	Mee, C.
420 Shettleston	Mee, Mrs. C.
" "	Calderwood, T.
421 Shrewsbury	Wallace, J.
" "	Gale, Mrs.
" "	Hunt, W. F.
" "	Ind, R.
422 Sidmouth	Maples, J.
423 Siddall	Pryor, J.
424 Sileby "Excelsior" Boot	Greenwood, J. E.
425 Silsden	Burton, G. A.
426 Silverdale	Clarke, E.
" "	Ashwell, W.
" "	Downing, G.
" "	Webb, W.
427 Sittingbourne	Colthup, A.
" "	Farrington, H. J.
" "	Middleton, D. W.
428 Skelmersdale	Gardner, R.
" "	Watkinson, D.
429 Slaithwaite	Garside, C. D.
" "	Walker, J. W.
430 Slough	Singer, J.
431 Soho	Banister, W. E.
" "	Critchley, A. W.
" "	Morris, A.
432 Southampton	Alexander, E. H.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
432 Southampton	Feltham, G.
"	Feltham, Mrs. G.
"	Perriman, F.
"	Saunders, F.
"	Saunders, Mrs. F.
433 South Cerney	Johnson, A. E.
434 South Crosland and Netherton	Pogson, J.
435 Southport	Houldsworth, R.
436 Southwell	Arnold, G. A.
437 Sowerby Bridge Flour	Haigh, J.
"	Hamer, J.
"	Milton, J.
438 " " Industrial	Fishwick, A.
"	Hobson, A.
"	Johnson, Mrs. M.
439 Spalding	Cadmire, W. T.
"	Green, W.
440 Sperope Boot	Hall, E.
441 Stafford	Blakeman, A.
"	Blakeman, Mrs. A.
"	Donnelly, P. E.
442 Staines and Egham	Francis, S. W.
"	Hoskins, A. H.
443 Stalybridge	Barrett, G.
"	Buckley, A.
444 Stanton Hill	Halfpenny, J.
"	Hind, J.
445 Stapleford and Sandiacre	Plackett, F. W.
"	Rigby, A.
446 Staveley Town	Gregory, H.
"	Martin, J.
447 Stevenston	Reid, P.
448 Stirling	Macgregor, P.
"	Melrose, J.
449 Stockport Industrial	Manning, G.
"	Nowell, J.
"	Nowell, Mrs. J.
"	Potts, Mrs. M. J.
"	Taylor, S.
450 Stocksbridge	Brown, F.
"	Farnie, A. M.
"	Kenworthy, J. C.
451 Stockton-on-Tees	Carr, J. W.
"	Day, Mrs. M. E.
"	Harrison, G. R.
"	McEwen, G. A.
"	Mowbray, C. W.
"	Scarth, T.
452 Stowmarket	Wade, W.
453 Stratford (London)	Baldwin, J. C. W.
"	Elliott, W. H.
"	Lamplugh, R.
"	Potter, W. C.
"	Walker, T.
454 Stroud	Budd, T.
"	Hayward, P. E.
"	Price, A. E.
455 Styal	Mason, A.
456 Sutton	Wadsworth J.
457 Swalwell	Howard, J.
458 Swansea	Brown, H.
"	Hellings, J. T.
459 Swarthmoor and Ulverston	Coward G.
"	Maxwell, T.
460 Swinton (Moorside)	Procter, E.
461 Taibach and Port Talbot	Rees, D. R.
462 Tamworth	Brindley, B.
"	Hackett, A. E.

NAME OF SOCIETY.

DELEGATES.

462 Tamworth	Haynes, J.
"	Hunstone, E. F.
"	Smith, G. H.
463 Ten Acres and Storchley	Bracey, Mrs. A.
"	Cottrell, Mrs. M. E.
"	Kimberley, B.
"	Onley, G. H.
"	Simpson, J.
"	Summers, W.
464 Thomson, Wm., and Sons Ltd.	Thomson, G.
465 Tibshelf	Hill, G. R.
"	Turton, A.
466 Todmorden - Bridge End	Newell, F.
467 " Industrial	Mitchell, J. T. S.
"	Pickles, W.
"	Ormerod, T.
"	Stansfield, G.
468 Togston Terrace and Broomhill	Tillicoe, A.
469 Ton Industrial	Evans, E. W.
"	George, J.
470 Torquay	Thompson, H.
"	Thompson, Mrs. H.
"	White, W.
471 Tow Law	Grant, J.
"	Nesbit, A.
472 Toxteth	Hardcastle, Mrs. M.
"	Mason, W. H.
473 Tranent	Fisher, D.
"	Gordon, J.
"	Young, J.
474 Treboeth	Davies, T. R.
475 Tredegar	Evans, J.
"	Samuel, T. J.
476 Treharris	Hilborne, E.
477 Trowbridge	Beaven, M.
"	Beaven, Mrs. M.
"	Wareham, J.
478 Tunbridge Wells	Scrace, J.
"	Smith, J. E.
479 Twerton-on-Avon	Francis, A. E.
"	Haskins, E. G.
"	Wheeler, A. J.
480 Tyldesley	Battersby, L.
"	Hilton, F.
481 Uddingston	McCulloch, W.
"	McCubbin, T.
482 Upper Lydbrook	Knight, R.
483 Uppermill	Hall, J.
"	Shaw, H.
484 Uppertown	Mason, T.
485 Vale of Leven	Love, J.
486 Wadebridge	Pearce, Mrs. H.
487 Wakefield Industrial	Bedford, H.
"	Frost, B. H.
"	Morrell, A.
"	Speight, Mrs. W.
488 Walkden	Barnes, T.
"	Leather, J.
489 Wallsend	Robertson, F.
"	Robertson, Mrs. F.
"	Thomson, G.
"	Abbotts, W.
490 Walsall	Adams, Mrs. L.
"	Dewsbury, Mrs. M.B.
"	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
490 Walsall	Giles, T. J.
"	Skeels, H.
"	Worthlington, G.
491 " Locks and Cart Gear	Harrison, W. G.
492 Walsden	Dobson, J. E.
493 Warrington	Faulkner, G.
"	Jarman, J.
"	Packer, S.
"	Sherburn, W. H.
"	Wardman, H.
"	Wright, W.
494 Warsop Vale	Hudson, Rev. T. S.
495 Warwick	Webb, E. H.
496 Waterloo	Flowers, G. H.
497 Watford	Aldridge, A. A.
"	Beck, Mrs. E. L.
498 Wellingborough Midland	Brigstock, G.
"	Butcher, J.
"	Glover, S. T.
499 West London	Allen, W. J.
"	Allen, Mrs. W. J.
"	Burn, A. C.
"	Coffin, G.
"	French, C.
500 Weston-super-Mare	Gasson, Mrs. M. A.
501 West Stanley	Amesbury, W. F.
"	Carr, J.
502 West Wylam and Prudhoe	Douglas, G.
"	Callender, J.
503 West Yorkshire Coal Federation	Lawson, J.
504 Weymouth	Black, J.
"	Carter, J.
"	Carter, Mrs. J.
"	Ramsden, G. W.
505 Wigan	Farrimond, E.
"	Latham, W.
"	Staveley, W.
506 Wigston Hosiers	Thirlwall, W.
507 Willesden and District	Kemp, S.
"	Brooker, Mrs. A. M.
"	Mawson, J. R. T.
508 Wilsden	Wiggins, R. P.
509 Windhill	Pearson, W.
"	Berry, J.
"	Holmes, D.
"	Greenfield, Mrs. K.
"	Lancaster, S.
"	Morton, N. J.
"	Read, D. M.
510 Windy Nook	Jordon, P.
"	Ramsden, R.
511 Winsford	Burrows, A.
"	Holden, A.
"	Smallwood, C. F.
512 Wishaw	Kirkwood, A. H.
"	Stafford, J.
513 Woking	Best, A. W.
"	Newbold, C. W.
514 Wollaston	Catlin, J. F.
515 Wolverton	Craik, A.
"	Faulkner, D. W.
"	Jeffs, E. E.
516 Woolwich—Royal Arsenal	Blackman, J.
"	Connor, Mrs. M.
"	Davis, Mrs. W. T.
"	Perkins, A. R.
"	Tucker, Mrs. M. A.
"	Wimhurst, Mrs. E.
517 Worcester	Goodall, J.
"	Saxton, Mrs. C. A. W.

NAME OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.	DELEGATES.
517 Worcester	Ward, Mrs. M.
518 Workington Beehive	Hunt, W.
" "	Lamb, R.
519 " Industrial	Raby, S. A.
" "	Blackburn, T.
" "	Eden, H.
520 Worksop	Underwood, J.
"	Cottingham, W.
"	Eccleston, G.
"	Raynor, W.
"	Scott, H.
521 Ynysybwll	Edwards, D. J.
522 York	Watkins, W.
"	Bramley, J.
"	Dodds, G. W.
"	Parkin, C. B.
"	Richardson, A.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

Midland Section.

523 Birmingham	Bruff, F. H.
524 Derby	Ball, J.
525 Leicester	Brown, C. W.
526 Lincoln	Baker, J. P.
527 Northampton and Earls Barton	James, G. T.
528 Nottingham	Keetley, J. F.
529 Stafford	Evans, W.
530 Wellingborough and Kettering	Fonlds, A. J.

North-Western Section.

531 Airedale	Gratton, J. C.
532 Bolton	Barlow, T.
533 Calderdale	Thorpe, J.
534 Dewsbury	Kershaw, J.
535 Huddersfield	Ellis, F.
536 Manchester	Pogson, D.
537 North-East Lancashire	Higham, A.
538 South Yorkshire	Major, G.

Scottish Section.

539 Ayrshire	Anderson, Wm.
540 Central	McPhail, M.
541 East of Scotland	Laing, W. T.
542 Falkirk	Brock, H.
543 Glasgow and Suburbs	Ross, M.
544 Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen	O'Neil, A.
545 Renfrewshire	Paton, J.
546 Stirling, West of Fife, and Clackmannan	Sneddon, J.

Southern Section.

547 Bedford and Bucks	Goldsmith, C. T.
548 Cambridge	Barnard, T.
549 Essex and Suffolk	Wood, B. S.
550 Hants	Hibberd, R.
551 Kent	Black, H. W.
552 Metropolitan, North	Maton, J. W.
553 Oxford	King, E.
554 Wilts and Dorset	Ashby, W.

NAME OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.	DELEGATES.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>South-Western Section.</i></p> <p>555 Cornwall 556 Devon</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Western Section.</i></p> <p>557 Brecon, Monmouth, and East Glamorgan 558 Gloucester and Hereford 559 Mid-Glamorgan..... 560 West Wales</p>	
	<p>Laphorn, W. J. Dunn, T.</p>
	<p>Davies, J. P. Blackwell, J. Williams, Rev. J. F Williams, D.</p>

Total number of persons present at Congress, 1,410.





PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, 22nd MAY, 1915.

For the second time in its history the Co-operative Congress has met at Leicester. The first time was in 1877, and since then many important changes, not only in the Congress itself but in the movement generally, have taken place. This year's Congress—the 47th of the series—was held in the De Montfort Hall on Monday, 24th May, and the two following days, and, notwithstanding the curtailment of railway facilities, the number of delegates present was close upon fifteen hundred.

CENTRAL BOARD MEETING.

The members of the Central Board met in the Co-operative Hall, Union Street, Leicester, on Saturday morning, 22nd May, at 9-30, to review their report to Congress, and, with a short interval for lunch, continued their deliberations until about 3-30 in the afternoon. The following active and honorary members of the Board were present :—

IRISH EXECUTIVE.

Messrs. H. M. Barbour, J. Palmer, and R. Fleming (secretary).

MIDLAND SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bastard, J. Butcher, S. Butler, W. J. Douse, G. Harris, J. Langley, W. Millerchip, J. Millington, F. Rankin, and C. A. W. Saxton (secretary); also D. McInnes and G. Woodhouse (hon. members).

NORTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. J. C. Aiston, G. Bedford, J. Davison, S. Galbraith, M.P., J. Murdoch, W. R. Rae, W. Scott, and W. Clayton (secretary); also W. Crooks (hon. member).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. E. Booth, E. Derbyshire, W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, S. R. Foster, G. Goodenough, J. Greenwood, W. Gregory, J. W. Hargreaves, S. C. Hughes, J. Johnston, J. Pollitt, T. Redfearn, H. Stuttard, W. Swindlehurst, J. Thompson, B. Woolfenden, A. J. Wroe, and J. Bradshaw (secretary); also G. Wheelhouse (hon. member).

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Messrs. James Allan, G. Bisset, J. Deans (secretary), J. Lucas, A. Purdie, J. M. Wilkie, and G. Wilson; also D. H. Gerrard (hon. member).

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. T. Charter, M. H. Clear, Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Messrs. A. W. Golightly, A. Hainsworth, R. Rowsell, W. J. Salmon, and B. Williams (secretary); also E. O. Greening and H. J. May (hon. members).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. H. J. Drake, W. J. Gilbert (secretary), R. R. Prynne, C. W. Uglow, and W. H. Watkins.

WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. H. Bryant, R. R. Chappell, J. R. Davies (secretary), D. Evans, D. Williams, and E. R. Wood.

Mr. A. Whitehead (general secretary of the Co-operative Union) and Mr. T. Horrocks (assistant secretary) were also present.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: Our first business is the election of chairman. Will someone nominate a member of the Board for the position?

There was only one nomination—Mr. W. J. Douse (chairman of the United Board)—and it was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. DOUSE proceeded to the platform, and in his capacity as chairman said: I shall best consult your wishes by making no trespass upon your time. This meeting is a particularly peculiar one for business, and I hope we shall keep as close as we can to the business which has called us together. I am very grateful for the honour you have conferred upon me this morning, and I will try to deserve it by saying very little and keeping you to the business under discussion.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, and the discussion of the report proceeded with.

EMPLOYEES ON SERVICE.

Mr. RAE (Northern Section) drew attention to the figures given in the report relative to employes on active service, and societies helping dependents,

and ventured to suggest that they were somewhat misleading. He knew of one society (Bedlington) which had twenty men at the front. Were there any means of ascertaining how many employes were actually being helped by their societies?

The GENERAL and ASSISTANT SECRETARIES explained that they had experienced great difficulty in obtaining the information given in the report, and stated that if the Central Board desired, another effort would be made to get the necessary particulars for a fuller report.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that the following resolution had been sent in by five societies, and that it had been accepted by the Standing Orders Committee for discussion at Congress:—

That this Congress, as a representative gathering of organised co-operative producers and consumers, expresses the opinion that serious and immediate consideration should be given to the question of securing further direct control of both raw materials and necessary sources of supply, and requests the Central Board to make the necessary arrangements for the discussion of the subject during the coming Congress year.

Mr. W. T. Charter (of the Southern Board and the Cambridge Society) had been appointed to move the resolution on behalf of the societies which had sent it in.

Mr. CHARTER (Southern Section) said he would state the reasons which prompted the resolution when he moved it at Congress, but he would like to say that the last few months had given them an example of what might possibly be done by those who were antagonistic to co-operators in withholding from their use certain things which they should have. They wanted to strengthen the movement so that they would not be faced with a similar state of things in the future.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) said he did not want to raise a discussion, but in his opinion it was useless passing resolutions of that nature unless they were prepared to put them into operation, and unless a lead was given from the United Board. Reports bearing on this question were submitted and adopted at the Aberdeen and Dublin Congresses, but no action whatever had been taken towards putting them in operation. Had they done otherwise, had they instituted a vigorous agitation, the possibility was they would not have heard of the Shillito League to-day, because the work which that League proposed to do would have been done by the Co-operative Union. He hoped if they passed the resolution they would not allow it to lie on the table.

Mr. CHARTER: That is the reason why at the end of the resolution we suggest that steps should be taken to have the whole matter discussed at sectional or district conferences during the forthcoming Congress year.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member of the Board) said he would like to make his acknowledgments to the officials who had drawn up the report for the admirable way in which the whole facts relative to the movement were brought before them. Some of his friends at recent Congresses thought he used pessimistic words in regard to the progress of the movement. The figures in the present report suggested ardent optimism. They had induced him to look back and recall to recollection the rates of progress made in previous years. He thought the progress made in 1914 was exceedingly satisfactory. He would go back to the first decade of the present century, and he found that in those ten years their membership increased by 1,008,334, or an average per year of 100,833, or $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In 1914 their membership increased by 176,750 compared with 1913, or nearly 7 per cent. New members, as they all knew, meant new customers and progress all round. In the first decade of the century the capital of the movement increased by £20,502,993, or an average rate for the ten years of £2,050,289. For 1914 the increase was £2,365,220. There was an increase of £37,428,482 in the sales for the first ten years of the century, an average increase for each year of £3,742,848, or about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This year (1914) there was an increase of £8,437,131, or about 7 per cent. The profits for the first decade of the century on the average increased by £307,289, or $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, whereas for 1914 they were increased by £943,684, or over $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on 1913. He knew that in regard to the profit they had to take higher prices into consideration, but even making allowances for the advance in prices the increase in profits was very substantial. He believed they were on the beginning of a great uprising in the co-operative movement. London, which used to be known as a co-operative desert, was coming along with a rush, and he had little doubt that in the next ten years they would see it finally conquered and added to the co-operative commonwealth. The rural districts, too, were awakening and falling into line.

SOCIETIES STRUCK OFF.

Mr. S. R. FOSTER (North-Western Section) asked why several societies had been struck off the roll of membership of the Union, and he was informed by the General Secretary that they had not paid their subscriptions for two years. What had been done was in accordance with the rules of the Union.

AUDITORS' BUREAU.

Mr. J. PRYOR said this part of the report deserved attention. They spoke there of a training course for auditors, and the thought occurred to him that they might form the men trained under their auspices into an auditors' bureau. They could then recommend to societies men who had been trained for the work of auditing, and who would be able to help them out of difficulties.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said that Mr. Pryor's suggestion met

with his personal approval. He would like to see an auditors' bureau in the movement, and he commended the idea of advisers going about helping societies out of difficulties; but he respectfully submitted that Mr. Pryor was out of order in bringing the matter forward as a suggestion on the report of the Education Committee. It was really a question for the United Board, and the Education Committee could not be held responsible for matters such as that. They (the Education Committee) would train auditors for the United Board, if they would have the courage to form them into a bureau.

ADVISER OF STUDIES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said Professor Hall, who had commenced his duties as adviser of studies at Holyoake House, was in the room, and he thought, seeing they were considering the report of the Central Education Committee, it was a fitting opportunity for introducing him to them.

Professor F. HALL, who was cordially received, said he had not come into the movement for fun or for a more comfortable position. He had really come in with a desire to do some solid work. So far as he was concerned, nothing would be too trifling to notice or too big to attempt which had the promise of helping forward what he considered to be a great cause.

HIGH PRICES.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) said a useful purpose would have been served had the special committee appointed some time ago to deal with the prices of commodities brought in an emergency measure to consider the advance in prices which had taken place since the beginning of the present war. It seemed to him extraordinary that a movement like the co-operative movement, and faced with a national crisis such as they were, had done comparatively nothing to draw the attention, not only of its own members but of the general public, to the spoliation which was going on. He looked to the co-operative movement to give a lead to those outside.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) said they (the Midland Board) had sent on a suggestion to the United Board that they should take the initiative, either by convening a special meeting or in some other way, in centralising and using the influence of the co-operative movement with regard to this question. He believed the Parliamentary Committee had done their best, but the United Board should have dealt with the matter, and not have referred it to that committee at all. Had they taken action themselves, he was of the opinion they could have done some good.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) said their time was coming, and he hoped they would not be found wanting. The future was with them, if they had only sense to deal with it.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said he was not in entire agreement with Mr. Goodenough. If they waited for the time coming they would always be behindhand. As they stated in the report dealing with

high prices, if they wanted to exercise any influence in fixing prices they would have to get hold of the sources of supply. Had they followed out the advice, it was quite possible they would have possessed more power in keeping prices lower than they were at the present time, and there would have been no need for the Shillito League. If they adopted a waiting policy they would never succeed and never do anything. Now was the time; more delay, the less they would be able to accomplish.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that the Parliamentary Committee had not lost sight of the matter, and it would come up for discussion at its next meeting, which would be held on the following Monday evening.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) said they, as co-operators, should not join with anyone else; they should start an agitation themselves. They were big enough and powerful enough to give a lead themselves. They wanted to stir up the country with regard to the prices which were being extorted from the public. With bread costing 9d. a loaf, it was time something was done to deal with the question of prices.

Mr. G. WOODHOUSE (hon. member of the Board) expressed the opinion that the Parliamentary Committee was the body to work through. They wanted to exert pressure on the Government and make the agitation so strong that they (the Government) were bound to take some notice of it. They should not object to agitate with anybody and everybody who would join them in the direction they desired to go.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said they wanted to create public opinion on this matter, so that when the members of the Parliamentary Committee approached the House they would have some chance of being heard.

Mr. T. REDFERN (North-Western Section) stated that he was not so much in favour of asking the Government to do something for them. He thought the people could do better for themselves than any Government, and the less they asked the Government to interfere in these matters the better. As co-operators they represented one-fourth of the population, and surely as a body they could accomplish big things if they were only united.

Mr. B. WILLIAMS (secretary, Southern Section) said the experience of the Workers' Emergency Committee was that the people were absolutely apathetic in regard to the question of prices. They showed no inclination whatever to look after their own affairs. They (the committee) diagnosed the situation in this way: Many of the people were working overtime and earning good money to cover the increased cost of commodities. It might also be the case that they could not attend meetings convened by the committee on account of working overtime. The committee came to the conclusion that the people did not care a button about the work they were trying to do on their behalf, and they felt that all their efforts had been wasted.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section): Have we, as a movement, in our wholesale and other societies, done everything we could to make private

traders bring down prices? Certainly not. They had not reduced their dividends, consequently they had had to keep up their prices. The directors of the United Baking Society had stated they would not increase their prices, with the result that the people in the West of Scotland had been saved thousands of pounds.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (Southern Section) said he thought the discussion would have been more profitable on the paper which Mr. Thorpe was to read at Congress. To regulate prices was not such an easy matter as some people seemed to think. He believed everybody had done their best, in a very difficult situation, to keep prices down to the level they were to-day.

Mr. H. J. MAY (secretary of the Joint Parliamentary Committee) said he did not think Mr. Charter intended to convey the impression that nothing had been done. Mr. Millington had also said they should not hand their work over to somebody else. Might he point out that what they had to discuss now was not what they should do in the future, but the report before them as to the work which had been done during the past year. The Parliamentary Committee, acting on behalf of the Co-operative Congress and the Union, had taken every possible step, not only to get information from the societies and the constituent bodies of the Parliamentary Committee—that was the English and the Scottish Wholesale Societies—but to place the matters promptly before the Prime Minister. Their work had not been handed over to anybody else; they had done it themselves, irrespective of the existence of any other body. He thought they would have to arouse not only their own societies, but the whole country, before they could get anything done on this subject of high prices. The Government were not open to pressure unless they could make it stronger. They had lost no opportunity of pressing forward the claims and interests of co-operation, and their report did not reveal one tithe of what they had done. They had not always received the support they expected from their people, and they would welcome anything which they could do to create public opinion—even co-operative opinion—which would justify them in going forward. They wanted that support which they had sadly lacked in the past.

EXHIBITIONS IN THE OPEN.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member of the Board) said the exhibition in connection with the Congress had gradually grown so big—and he was pleased it had—that there was difficulty in finding the necessary accommodation for all their exhibits. He wanted them to consider whether the time had not arrived for a new departure in regard to the exhibition. The exhibitions were an essential part of the educational part of their movement, and they should place them before the general public as an example of what they were doing. Exhibitions went very much further than speeches. The Royal Agricultural Society years ago had to give up the idea of holding their exhibitions in buildings, and they went out into the open. The exhibitions were most interesting, and they were made to pay. Their Joint

Exhibitions Committee should appoint a deputation to visit the next exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society, and see whether it was not possible for them to have their exhibitions in the open.

Mr. J. PRYOR said the scheme sounded very nice, but he was afraid Mr. Greening had lost sight of one or two facts in connection with the Royal Agricultural Show. In the first place, the Royal Agricultural Society depended largely upon fees paid by manufacturers for meeting the cost of the exhibition; and in the second place the show, on the first day, was restricted to people who could afford to pay no little sum for admission. They wanted nothing of the sort associated with their co-operative exhibitions. If they wanted to push co-operative productions, they should go home and see they displayed such productions in their shop windows and urge the members to buy them.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Mr. W. J. GILBERT (South-Western Section) drew attention to the fact that at last Congress Rule 28 was altered, and the spirit which governed the alteration of the rule, as far as that Board was concerned and the Congress was concerned was that the terms of the old rule were not sufficiently elastic. Mr. Gregory, in moving the alteration, mentioned the fact that it would allow persons to be members who had not served ten years as members of the Central Board, but had served the movement in other official capacities. At the first meeting of the Congress year of the South-Western Sectional Board they received an application from Mr. Pryor, who had done good work for the movement in the south-west of England, and who had taken advantage of the altered terms of the rule. The name was submitted to the United Board, and Mr. Pryor had attended meetings and in all respects acted as an honorary member of the Board. Now the speaker had received an intimation from the General Secretary of the Union to the effect that Mr. Pryor's application was invalid. He submitted that the interpretation of the rule given by the solicitor was not in the spirit which that Board, or Congress, intended it to be. They submitted, as a Board, that Mr. Pryor had served eight years on the Central Board, and he gave up his position on the Central Board in order that he might more especially deal with the work in his own district, for which he acted as secretary. If a district secretary was not an official, he (the speaker) did not know who was. As a matter of fact, Mr. Pryor had given twenty-five years of his life to the movement. His Board had not brought this matter forward because Mr. Pryor was one of their own men, but because they were of opinion that this decision did not carry out the intention of Congress, and they suggested that the United Board should make the rule so explicit in terms that it would admit such men as Mr. Pryor. There were men who, although they had not served on the Central Board for ten years, had done good work for the movement.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said they all regretted somewhat the position that had arisen, but they would agree that the only consideration they had at the particular time they proposed submitting the

alteration to Congress was to admit one particular individual, Mr. H. J. May. They all considered it was absolutely necessary that they should retain the services of Mr. May as an official. He had acted as an official in the movement for some considerable time, but, according to the rule, he was not in a position to be retained in the service of the movement. As the mover of the resolution, he had in mind men prominently associated with the movement, such as Mr. May and Mr. Maxwell. They believed that those instances would frequently arise, but they were anxious not to have the door continually open without sufficient inquiry and sufficient guarantee of the abilities and usefulness of the individual. It was not the fault of the solicitor in giving the legal decision; the fault lay with themselves in not making their desire explicit enough in framing the rule. He would agree that they should amend the rule.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) asked why the opinion of the solicitor was not taken when the application was made, instead of being taken when the man had served a year.

Mr. R. R. PRYNNE (South-Western Section) said, as chairman of the South-Western Sectional Board, he was quite in accord with the wish of his colleagues that Mr. Pryor should be an honorary member of their Board, but he was not quite sure that Mr. Gilbert was right in saying that it was the wish of the Board. Owing to a peculiar set of circumstances, the meetings of the South-Western Sectional Board had been few and far between this year, and the last two meetings had been decidedly irregular. They were called for the first Saturday in each month, but the members of the Board had not attended those meetings. He was the only one who attended the first, and at the second only another member attended. Immediately afterwards his colleagues thought fit to call a meeting at Plymouth, where four of them resided, and he, as chairman, had not the honour to be present.

The GENERAL SECRETARY, in making an explanation on behalf of the United Board, said, in the first place, the recommendation came to the United Board about June, and they agreed to it, subject to the approval of Congress. That made Mr. Pryor an honorary member until Congress. When the whole list of honorary members was considered, there was some question of their eligibility. The United Board then decided to ask the opinion of the solicitor. They decided to give the exact conditions of service in each case, and to abide by the decision of the solicitor. When the rule was drafted, it was intended to include permanent officials of the Union, but "in an official capacity" had been misconstrued. As regarded Mr. Pryor's nomination, it was out of order legally. The United Board expressed their regret when the decision of the solicitor was given, as they realised the good work Mr. Pryor had done during a long period. They were sorry individually that they could not allow his name to go forward. It had been suggested that the United Board might consider the rule. In reference to that, he might say there was a sub-committee of the General Survey Committee dealing with constitution, and this sub-committee had had under consideration the rules of the Union, and had decided to recommend an alteration in that

particular rule. But there was nothing to prevent the United Board taking action.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) asked if they were to understand that there had been only two or three meetings of the South-Western Sectional Board during the past year.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) wished to remove a misapprehension in regard to the meetings of the South-Western Sectional Board, but

Mr. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section), on a point of order, said they could discuss that matter when they considered the sections.

The CHAIRMAN : That is right.

REPORTS OF CENTRAL BOARD MEETINGS.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) expressed his regret at the fact that there was no mention of the meetings of the Central Board in its report. During the year there had been two meetings, and the proceedings were not recorded in the report. He ventured to suggest that it was an unfortunate omission, in view of the fact that at one of the meetings two very important matters were dealt with. He referred to the appointment of the General Survey Committee and the grant to the Women's Guild. It was necessary that the reports of the Central Board as a whole should have a place in the Central Board report ; and he suggested that some of the discussions they had had that morning, especially in regard to the rise in prices and the Parliamentary Committee, would have taken a different form if the spirit and feeling of the Central Board as a whole had been expressed in the report. Their committees were really sub-committees of the Central Board, which was a full committee of the Union. He believed that in the future, more so than in the past, the Central Board would have to meet as a whole more often, and legislate for, and administer the affairs of, the Union. That was his reason for laying so much stress on the necessity for a full account of the proceedings at the meetings being given in the report to Congress.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) supported Mr. Watkins' proposals. They should have a record of what had taken place at the meetings of the most important body of the Union. He made certain proposals at the meeting of the Central Board at Portsmouth—

The GENERAL SECRETARY : I would like you to explain what those suggestions were. If you will refer to the Portsmouth Congress Report, you will find the reports.

Mr. JOHNSTON said the proposals had reference to important matters.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said in the Dublin Congress Report they would find the minutes of the full meetings of the Central Board, both before and after Congress. At the special Central Board meeting held in September, two or three important matters were considered, and of these the Women's Guild grant and the General Survey Committee were referred to in the report.

The matters that were not mentioned were the National Relief Fund and the death of Mr. Lowe. These meetings were looked upon as semi-private, and it was not usual to make a special report.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

At the request of the chairman, the members rose in their places in order to pay a tribute of respect to the deceased members of the Board.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) remarked that there might be some misapprehension on the part of the whole Board regarding the doings of the South-Western Sectional Board during the year, and he wished to remove it. As a responsible member, he wished to say that all that had been possible in the existing circumstances had been done to carry out the work, co-operatively, methodically, and properly. When the Board could meet, it did meet, and sometimes the members had met at very nearly the hour of midnight in order to get the work done. Members were engaged in war service, and sometimes they could not meet at the time appointed, and they had to arrange a more convenient time.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Mr. S. R. FOSTER (North-Western Section) pointed out that the Central Office expenses had gone up something like £800 in the year 1914, and asked for an explanation.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section), in regard to the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators, asked for an explanation of the expenditure of £21. 17s., as this committee had not met.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said this committee had not met since Congress, but the accounts were for the full year. He could not give the detailed expenses, as he had not the full particulars.

WAR BONUS TO EMPLOYEES.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) asked whether the proposed war bonus to employés had been dealt with, or whether it would come before that meeting.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said it was a matter which the Office Committee had had under consideration and referred to the United Board.

Mr. JOHNSTON: Mr. Whitehead says this is a matter to come before the United Board. I venture to suggest that this meeting of the Central Board ought to have the power to deal with such an important proposal as that.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) thought charity might begin a little nearer home in regard to this matter. If they had been delegates from societies they would have been allowed 15s. a day for expenses, but on that Board they were only allowed 10s., and prices had gone up.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) emphasised the point raised by Mr. Johnston. In minutes of the United Board there was a resolution submitted from the Office Committee, and sanctioned by the United Board. When his Sectional Board had these minutes before them, they took strong exception to the item, not only on the question of the bonus, but on the attitude the United Board had taken up regarding it. Unless they had an opportunity of discussing the principle underlying that resolution that day, they would not have one until twelve months hence, when the matter would have been dealt with and the men paid. He suggested that they should have an opportunity for discussing the matter.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said he did not say that Board had not the power to deal with this question. The protest of the North-Western Sectional Board was considered at a meeting the previous week, and the Office Committee decided to let the matter remain as it was until the next meeting of the United Board, who would consider the whole question.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH asked if the Sub-office Committee were restrained from acting at the bidding of one section always, or was it only in one case?

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) said it was a question of principle, and not of one section objecting. He objected to the suggestion of the secretary that the United Board was the "sole financial dictator" of what the financial position should be. The Central Board was the body which should have the power to confirm an important matter of that kind. They had had an instance of it in the case of the late secretary (Mr. J. C. Gray), who had had his salary advanced by the United Board. Mr. Gray thought it inadequate, and appealed from the authority of the United Board to the Central Board, which reversed the decision of the United Board.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) said the matter came up for consideration at last United Board meeting. He suggested that if Mr. Johnston objected to it, he should state his objection in a straightforward manner, and not in the way he had done. If they took a decision Mr. Johnston could vote against it.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section): All that I ask is that we shall have an opportunity to table a resolution dealing with this question.

Mr. T. HORROCKS (Assistant Secretary): This matter has been considered by the Finance Committee. That committee has remitted the matter to the first meeting of the new United Board; consequently it does not come before this meeting. He suggested that notice of motion should be given for it to come before the Central Board at its meeting on Tuesday.

At this stage the CHAIRMAN was asked for his ruling on the matter, and he said he thought the discussion was out of order.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) submitted that it would be possible to discuss the question under "general business."

The CHAIRMAN: Then we will take the war bonus under the heading of "general business."

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER FORCES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY submitted a resolution on this matter which it was proposed to submit to Congress, as follows :—

That this Congress agrees, in view of the opinion expressed by the votes of societies and at conferences, that no further action be taken on the question of co-operation with other forces.

Two amendments, he said, had been received to that. One from the Agricultural and Horticultural Association as follows :—

That the recommendation of the Central Board, that no further action be taken, on the question of co-operation with other forces, be adopted, and that the resolution of the Dublin Congress on the question continue in force until further resolution of Congress be made.

Another amendment had been sent in, but it was out of order.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member of the Board), speaking on behalf of the Agricultural and Horticultural Association, said this amendment had been sent in in the interests of peace. His society wanted it to be clearly understood that the agitation in favour of political action should have an interval, unless some future Congress brought the matter up. They did not want little conflicts during the year; they wanted concentration on their own work of co-operation.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) would have liked Mr. Greening to have been more explicit. The Office Committee, who were responsible for this resolution, in view of the voting of the societies, thought it better to let the matter drop. He thought it would be better if they passed this resolution and got the matter out of the way. He moved it as it stood.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) seconded, saying that the voting by societies and conferences had conclusively proved that the time was not now ripe for any consideration of a closer alliance between all Labour bodies. Those who were active in bringing this matter forward years ago had the idea solely of strengthening the movement, and not of weakening it by bringing into its ranks political controversy. Recognising that the co-operative movement was not ripe at the present time for going forward with this question, he thought it was right to accept the United Board's recommendation that the matter be allowed to drop. He did not like the bit added by Mr. Greening—something which tied their hands. To ask them to allow the resolution passed at Dublin Congress to remain in force appeared to him to be unwise. They should drop the matter altogether for the time being, and if they wanted to bring about a closer relationship between the forces of Labour, they should make a fresh start some other time.

* Mr. S. R. FOSTER (North-Western Section) suggested that a vote should be taken.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section), as one who was associated with Mr. Charter in regard to this question last year, appealed to Mr. Greening to drop the resolution he had brought forward.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) asked if they would not be in exactly the same position. If they did not pass another resolution, they would have to accept and carry out the resolution passed at last Congress. Without Mr. Greening's suggestion, they would have to carry out the last expressed opinion of Congress.

Mr. E. O. GREENING welcomed the remarks of Mr. Charter and Mr. Goodenough, and said he believed they would now give them the opportunity of ceasing this discussion about politics. He would accept the resolution of the Central Board as embodying what was suggested by his society.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: You withdraw your resolution?

Mr. E. O. GREENING: Yes.

Mr. S. R. FOSTER again suggested that a vote should be taken.

The resolution was put to the meeting and adopted, only one member voting against.

CONCILIATION BOARDS.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) remarked that it looked as if the Conciliation Board was to consist of the United Board and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, yet in the preceding paragraph it said representatives of other trade unions could come in. Should it not be, "and representatives of other unions affected?"

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) suggested that, instead of two representatives being appointed from the United Board, they should be appointed from the Central Board. He thought there were many arguments in favour of that, and the strongest was a continuity of service policy. The United Board was a continually changing body, whereas, if they were elected from that Board, they would continue in office.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section), referring to the District Conciliation Boards, said it had been recommended that the constitution of these Boards should be a certain number of employés and a certain number of representatives of societies, including one from the Sectional Board, which would leave the societies with their direct representatives as one less than the representatives of the employés. He did not think this would commend itself to societies. The fairest way would be that the societies in the district should have an equal representation with the employés. If the Sectional Board was to be represented, it should be by an additional member. The effect of the constitution as recommended would be that the four representatives of the employés would go to the meetings thoroughly united and acting as one; the three representatives from societies might be united; and then there would be one representative from the Sectional Board, who would be responsible to none of the societies. They would be actually playing into the hands of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. He was not speaking with any animosity. They should not have a majority on the Board, and then a society could go to it and feel that it was going to a Board that was fair and unbiassed. He thought this matter should be referred back, so that they could have an amended constitution.

The GENERAL SECRETARY pointed out that the report said two representatives should be appointed "by" the United Board, and not "from" the United Board. Regarding Mr. Hainsworth's suggestion, he did not think the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés would agree to having five, what they would call employers, against four of their representatives.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) thought it far better that that meeting should decide, and moved—

That the words "and representatives of other unions affected" should be added after "Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés."

Her own society had not 25 per cent of Amalgamated Union of Employés' members.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) seconded. He took it that the several unions with which employés were connected should be represented as well as the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. Many of them who were trade-unionists knew that the actions of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés were not in accord with the traditions of trade-unionism. Although he was an "associate" member of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, he was an older member of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, and as the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés was not working on recognised trade union lines, he did not think it should be the only union represented on this body.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) said they might have a large proportion of their employés members of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, but they might have a number members of the Shop Assistants' Union. It did not matter very much whether the conditions of labour were decided by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés or the Shop Assistants' Union. If the Shop Assistants' Union had members to the extent of 25 per cent, they should be represented. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés made it clear that they would appoint one of their executive on this body, and the Co-operative Union, in view of this, thought they should have a representative of the Sectional Board, so that interests would be balanced.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section): My suggestion to the Board was that its present suggested constitution would act unfairly, and to make it act fairly would be to appoint an extra one to be chairman.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) thought there was some misapprehension. Mr. Bisset had stated clearly that the suggested constitution gave the opportunity for other trade union representation. If there was 25 per cent membership of the other trade unions, then they claimed representation on the Conciliation Board in proportion to their membership. He thought they would agree that it would be unfair to allow representation to any and every trade union simply because they had one or two members; but as the employing section, they were not going to "load the dice," as it

were, in their favour. Ninety-nine per cent of the members of the Central Board were directly representing committees of societies, and, therefore, were representing the employing classes. He was in opposition to the policy of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés in accepting members of other craft unions, but they had to deal with the matter as it stood. He suggested that, as the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés had accepted the scheme, they should accept it also, because it gave opportunity for representation where the membership of other trade unions was 25 per cent, and that was as low as they could go.

Mr. J. PRYOR said the amendment proposed was an absolute necessity. In the first place, the matter was not in accord with the Dublin Congress resolution. That resolution said they should deal with employés as a whole, and not with a particular section of employés. They must amend the suggested resolution if they were to carry out the spirit of the Dublin Congress resolution.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON wanted to know what the 25 per cent meant. At his society they had about forty bakers who came forward and got conditions laid down by their union in advance of those asked for by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. They had some sixty carters getting their scale, again in advance of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés' scale, in addition to a war bonus. But in neither case was the percentage high enough to get representation on the Conciliation Board. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés had now come forward for a war bonus, and included these two sections. Societies did not want to be bound by conditions; they wanted something by which they could do justice to other trade unions and at the same time do justice to the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) thought the great difficulty and the injustice lay in the fact that one union was specified. He suggested that they should have the following terms:—"Trade unions in proportion to their membership; no one with less than 25 per cent being eligible, or in combination equal to 25 per cent."

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) asked if it was possible, in view of the arrangement made with the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, to make any alterations in the terms.

Mr. J. POLLITT: Yes.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés had accepted the scheme, and if they (the Central Board) did not agree with it there was nothing to do but refer the matter back for discussion during the year.

Mr. D. H. GERRARD (hon. member of the Board) could not conceive it possible for that or any other meeting to draw up a set of rules that would meet with the approval of the variety of trade unions that existed at the present time. If they were going to give every trade union representation, it would not be satisfactory. There were about ten in his society. They

should adopt regulations that would be just and equitable, and not try and please every trade union.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE suggested that they should not state any specific body, but make the terms such that all might be represented, so long as they were *bona-fide* trade unions.

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced that he had received a letter from the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress dealing with this matter, as follows :—

“At the recent meeting of the Parliamentary Committee, attention was drawn to a report appearing in the *Co-operative News* to the effect that a scheme has been formulated whereby questions arising between the Co-operative Union and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés may be settled, apparently, quite apart from the machinery hitherto set in motion for such purpose, namely, the Joint Committee of Co-operators and Trade-unionists. The Parliamentary Committee directed me to write to you upon the matter, as, in their opinion, the scheme, if eventually endorsed by the delegates attending the Co-operative Congress, will involve the disbandment of the Joint Committee.

“(Signed) C. W. BOWERMAN, Secretary.”

In answer to Mr. Millington, he said the 25 per cent did not mean from one society, but from the district.

Mr. G. BISSET remarked that the 25 per cent was accepted by them much against the wishes of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. They should think twice before referring the matter back.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE asked if his resolution was in order, and the General Secretary replied to the effect that the scheme could not be altered, as it had been accepted on their behalf.

Mr. M. H. CLEAR (Southern Section), as a trade-unionist, was against preferential treatment for any particular trade union. Why should not that trade union come into line and co-operate with other trade unions? He was against creating another body for any particular trade union.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) asked, providing this matter should be referred back, would it be possible to so redraft the resolution as to bring into it the principle raised by the letter read by the General Secretary? He thought there was a good deal in the contention that if this scheme were adopted, it did away with the existing body to deal with these disputes.

Mr. JOHNSTON moved—

That the question be put.

Mr. WILKIE moved—

That the matter be referred back.

Mr. W. H. BRYANT (Western Section) said it appeared to him that just one moment's consideration was wanted on the question before they disposed of it. He thought they all recognised that what they were talking about was modified by what had been happening in the meantime since the agree-

ment was reached between the representatives of that Board and the representatives of the Employés' Union. He thought, in the light of the new conditions, they would be justified in deciding that the whole matter be referred back, and that the scheme be not allowed to go forward to Congress.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (Southern Section) stated that there seemed to be a heap of confusion in the meeting. They knew in their own societies a very acute division had come about, and there seemed to be prospects of considerable trouble arising between the Trades Union Congress and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. He did not think it was in the interests of common justice that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés should handicap co-operative societies with conditions which they did not seek to impose upon their competitors. He seconded the resolution that the whole matter be referred back, in order that an attempt might be made to settle all points of differences.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said they would probably remember the circumstances which brought about the consideration of this question. Prior to the Dublin Congress, the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés issued a circular to their societies, and the nature of the demands contained therein caused fright to overcome many of their committees. It was in the interests of all concerned that the Co-operative Union should have taken the matter in hand and tried to come to an understanding with the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. He was not in sympathy with the policy of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, but they had to recognise that that union had now become a very powerful body, and exercised a tremendous influence. He thought the proper course for them to take was to try and come to an amicable understanding with the union. The committee appointed to deal with the matter had met the representatives of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés on several occasions with the object of trying to find out and frame some scheme acceptable to both sides. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés agreed to accept the final arbitration of some independent person when a deadlock took place. He thought they ought to let this resolution go to Congress, so that it might decide whether they should defer the matter. In that way they would be keeping faith with the representatives of the Employés' Union. They undertook to submit the scheme to their annual meeting, and the Co-operative Union representatives agreed to place it before their Annual Congress. He hoped they would agree to that, and leave the responsibility of accepting the scheme or not to Congress.

Mr. D. MC-INNES (hon. member of the Board): Will this have the effect of dissociating the Co-operative Union from the Joint Arbitration Committee which was started a good many years ago, and had been continued by the sanction of our Congress and the Trades Union Congress?

The GENERAL SECRETARY said they seemed to be confusing the two words conciliation and arbitration. One Board was set up for the purpose

of conciliation, and the other for arbitrating in disputes between the Employés' Union and the society as employer.

Mr. MC.INNES : I accept the answer. Has the Employés' Union stated that it will not abide by the results of any arbitration entered into by the Joint Committee ?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : It has done so.

The CHAIRMAN : The resolution is that we add the words, "or other trade unions interested." That, I think, ought to cover honourable people on both sides.

The resolution was then put to the vote, with the following result :—
For, 40 ; against, 5.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) said he moved the previous question ; that this matter be remitted back.

The CHAIRMAN : I cannot accept it.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said it would not be in order to remit the matter back. All they could do was to suggest to Congress that it should refer it back. They had gone to the Employés' Union in their name, and he did not think it would be right to break faith with it.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (Southern Section) said he would like an opportunity of recording his vote against the Central Board recommending the scheme to Congress for adoption.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) suggested they should allow the whole matter to go before Congress and abide by its decision.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) : If we have not, as the Central Board, the right to criticise, amend, or refer back, is there anything we may do ? That is our position this morning, and that is where I differ from our General Secretary. We are discussing the Central Board's Report to Congress, and we have not had an opportunity of discussing it before. I contend that we have the right, as members of the Central Board, to say whether this report shall go before Congress or not.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) said the United Board was the representative body which governed the Co-operative Union from year to year. They had entered into an honourable agreement to present that report to Congress, and in fairness to all concerned they should carry out that agreement.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE again pressed his proposal that the whole matter should be remitted back.

Mr. J. PRYOR said there was another point to be considered. The United Board was appointed to take charge of the work of the Central Board between meetings. The Central Board was responsible to Congress, and the United Board to the Central Board. In his opinion they had the right to refer the matter back.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) : It is indisputable we have the right, but it is not right we should take advantage of it to-day. The United Board has been in negotiation with the representatives of the Employés'

Union. It has not got all it wanted, neither has the other side. It looks to me as though we wanted to make them (the Employés' Union) look small.

Mr. WILKIE again pressed his amendment—

That the whole question be remitted back.

This time the Chairman accepted it, and put it to the vote, with the following result :—For, 19 ; against, 35.

THE GUILD GRANT.

The GENERAL SECRETARY intimated that a deputation from the Women's Guild, consisting of Mrs. Barton (president) and Miss M. Ll. Davies (secretary), was in the adjoining room, and he suggested that they now receive it.

The suggestion was agreed to, and the ladies, on entering the room, were invited to the platform.

Miss M. LLEWELLYN DAVIES spoke first. She said the Central Committee of the Guild wished her to say, in the first place, how grateful they were for the opportunity of conferring with the Central Board. They were most desirous, if it was at all possible, to find a way of working harmoniously with the Board. She thought she was quite right in assuming that the Board would far rather make the Guild the grant than withdraw it, if a working agreement could be found, because it had already recognised the good work of the Guild, and it seemed to them not unreasonable to expect that the whole work of an organisation should be taken into account when considering the withholding of a grant. In the statement, the Central Board said they had "not the slightest desire to interfere with the self-government of the Guild, and do not question its independence ; also that the right to grant money undoubtedly implies the right to say how the money shall be spent." Therefore, in order to meet the present deadlock, and taking into account that expression of the views of the Central Board, they (the Women's Guild) desired to submit to them the following compromise : That a joint conference should be held between the Central Board and the Guild. They had the feeling that if they were able to confer with the Central Board, difficulties between the two bodies might, in all probability, not occur at all. They thought the difficulties which had arisen were due to some sort of misunderstanding as regarded the attitude which the Guild, as a body, had taken up on a certain question. Should the suggested conference be held, and disagreement arose as to the subjects which the Guild desired to put into its programme, and there was no possible chance of an agreement being come to, then the Guild would give an undertaking that the Central Board grant should not be spent on any subject which was not approved of by the Central Board. It seemed to them (the Guild) there were two points in favour of that. In the first place, it would cut away the ground from under the feet of those who said Central Board money had been spent on subjects disapproved of by the Board, and, in the second place, it was a compromise which the Women's Guild could possibly accept, as it left the Guild with its

self-government, which they (the Central Board) said they had no desire to interfere with, and the power to spend money raised by itself on work which it felt to be important to the Guild and the country generally. In connection with the question of the self-government of the Guild, she said she would like to emphasise one or two points. One of those points was the extraordinary strong feeling of the members of the Guild in regard to self-government. The Congress resolution—the Guild Congress resolution, that was—had been endorsed to a most remarkable extent. It had not been universally endorsed, and they were not sorry, because that might give the impression that the members of the Guild were like a flock of sheep. They never desired absolute unanimity. Then the feeling of the members in regard to the position was shown in the way they had supported what was called “Our Self-Government Fund.” That fund at the moment had reached £420, and it had been subscribed to by 482 branches, which represented 27,000 members, or seven-eighths of the total membership of the Guild. They had also to bear in mind the fact that the Guild had no place, and there was no equality of representation, in the official part of the movement. It had no standing at Congress, nor on the Central Board, and it had a hard and difficult struggle to get women represented in the movement, even though, considered economically, the co-operative movement was a married woman’s movement, and absolutely dependent on her basket power. She would like them to realise that the Guild was built up by its own members, who were married women as well as co-operators, and who represented a class which never before had had organisation or power to express needs and reforms. It was only natural that a self-governing organisation of women co-operators should want to take up subjects which affected especially the lives of working women; and the fact that it was a self-governing body showed that it always spoke for itself and not for any other body; and it was recognised to do so by the outside world. If the Co-operative Productive Federation went to a Government Department with some subject connected with its own particular work, it would not be speaking for the co-operative movement, but for its own particular organisation. The Guild was too precious to their women, and too valuable to the country, for them to do anything that would cripple its usefulness or make its force less by yielding in any way the control of its policy, which, she gathered from their statement, the members of the Central Board had no desire to do. Therefore, the Guild suggested the compromise as one it could accept, and as a way in which the Central Board, if it desired, could meet the opposition of the Salford Catholic Federation. But they would like it to be clearly understood that, in putting forward their compromise, they did not admit that their work for divorce law reform was detrimental to the co-operative movement. Divorce was a great social question, which affected the well-being of individuals, families, and nations. The present law was largely responsible for an unrealised amount of misery, degradation, bad family atmosphere, and racial deterioration, and a change in the civil law, coupled with more spiritual education, would very largely remove those evils. To make such

a change would not compulsorily interfere with any individual's religious convictions or conduct, or the right of a church to teach its own doctrines and for its own members to follow out their principles and beliefs. Therefore, divorce law reform was not a religious question in the true sense of the word ; it did not interfere with religious convictions or conduct at all, and for anyone to try and throw this veil over the question—to say that divorce law reform was a religious question—was an interference with civil liberty. One of the fundamental principles of liberty was that civil reforms should not be suppressed under the plea of religion—a plea which was not tenable at all. The Guild carried on its work for four years before the slightest friction was seen in their societies. Their report also went before Congress, and no exception was taken to it. She asked them most earnestly to consider the extracts put forward in their statement, which showed quite clearly that the whole agitation against the Guild had been nothing but an engineered agitation on behalf of a body called the Salford Catholic Federation. That body, they could not too clearly recognise, did not represent broad-minded Catholics in the country. The secretary of the Salford Catholic Federation complained of the Catholic press, and said the Catholic co-operators at Manchester had not supported them as they ought to have done. A Catholic meeting in Leicester for last night was announced, but the local Catholics refused to arrange it. The support of their own Catholic members in the Guild had been most striking, and societies like Middlesbrough, Darlington, Plymouth, and many others, were standing by the Guild. The agitation against the Guild did not extend at all until this outside body took it up. Was the Guild to suffer for an outside organisation, which was not doing this work for the benefit of co-operation ? Disruption in the movement—was not that an empty threat ? What chance of success was there for any new society to start outside one of the large co-operative bodies ? Did they think Catholics would give up the benefits of co-operation ? Not only did they (the Guild) feel it was not detrimental to the movement that they should take up divorce law reform, they also felt it would be detrimental to the movement if they dropped it. It would mean the triumph of this narrow sectarian body, and they did not know where the attack would be turned on next. They had even objected to the Wholesale Society and other societies helping the Young Men's Christian Association. It could not be for the good of the movement that the Guild should be asked to drop the work it was doing on behalf of divorce law reform. When the important Divorce Law Reform Commission was sitting, the Guild collected evidence which was recognised as of special weight, coming from a self-governing body and voicing the words of the workers themselves. Their evidence was considered to be of greater weight than any other ; it was the only direct evidence from the class most concerned. She did not think they quite understood what this great reform meant to their women ; and to give up their work on its behalf, simply because a certain sectarian body had come along, would be taken to mean the betrayal of a cause, a lowering of them in the eyes of the country, and would unavoidably be taken as implying a weakness in their

views, and an adverse opinion on the question by the movement. They also feared it would undermine the faith of the women in the gospel of co-operation as the hope of the people. Dividends were important matters to the members of the Guild, but they looked to the movement for something more than dividends; they looked upon it as a great social regenerating force. They hoped that out of co-operation a new social birth might come and it was the belief in the spiritual force of co-operation which made their guildswomen such enthusiastic co-operators.

Mrs. BARTON did not think it necessary to say more than a few words, because Miss Davies had gone fully into all the points the Guild had to lay before them. She, too, was pleased that the meeting had taken place, because there were many men in the movement who wished that a meeting such as that could be arranged, so that the matter could be settled outside Congress. Proceeding, she said she was a guildswoman; but before she was a guildswoman she was a co-operator, and it was because she was a co-operator that she hoped they would settle the question between them. She had spent many hours when she should have been sleeping, thinking this question over, and the only way out she could think of was that the Guild and the Central Board should come together and settle it. She had heard it said by members of the Central Board that the decision was come to hurriedly at Dublin, and if Congress had not been meeting in a great Catholic city like Dublin, that decision would not have been arrived at. They might shut the mouths of the people, but they could not shut out their thoughts, and at some time those thoughts would have expression. Although for a time the propaganda might be crushed, it could only be for a time, because women were coming to believe more and more that only by going outside their homes could they settle the things inside. She hoped some arrangement would be arrived at, so that they would not have people using the Congress floor to push forward their private interests.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) asked for the exact terms suggested by the Guild, and the Chairman read the following extract from a letter which had been sent to each member of the Central Board.

"The Guild is willing to give an undertaking that the grant should not be spent (a) on any work for reform of the divorce law, nor (b) on any subject disapproved by the Board, after a joint conference between the Guild and Board has been held; and, further, suggests that a joint conference should be held annually.

"But in making these suggestions we wish it to be clearly understood that we consider it would *not* be in the best interests of the movement that the Guild should drop its work for the reform of the divorce laws; and if the Board is kindly willing to confer with our two representatives, we desire to explain why we lay such stress on the continuation of our work.

"In reference to the Board's present resolution, while unable to endorse last year's action of the Board, we fully acknowledge the right of the Central Board to withhold grants from organisations

which in its opinion are pursuing a course detrimental to the movement."

Miss DAVIES suggested that if the compromise was acceptable they should unite, either by voting against the Eccles resolution, or by the previous question being put. She also asked if that meeting was not to be in the nature of a conference between the Central Board and the Guild.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) pointed out that that was a meeting of the Central Board, which had been adjourned to form a conference, and whilst they sat as a Central Board, he did not think anyone had a right to be there who was not a member of the Board.

Mr. M. H. CLEAR (Southern Section) did not say they should discuss the matter, but he thought they had a right to ask questions.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) thought it was unfair to have a conference between eighty on one side and two women on the other. He suggested that two or three from the meeting should confer with three representatives of the Women's Guild immediately the meeting was adjourned for lunch. A report could be presented in two hours' time, and they could then come to a decision. He moved that that course be adopted.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) seconded.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) suggested that the Board should have an opportunity of considering whether they could accept the conditions laid down.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) said that was the suggestion he wanted to make. They should discuss the question immediately following lunch, after which they might find it necessary to appoint a deputation to confer with the Women's Guild; then they could come to some decision which would make Congress better.

It was eventually decided that questions should be asked the members of the deputation, after which they should retire.

Mr. J. THOMPSON (North-Western Section) asked how it was possible to differentiate between the money granted by the Central Board and the other money.

Miss DAVIES said the Guild thought that they could undertake that the Central Board money should not be spent in connection with divorce law reform propaganda, either on speakers, deputations, printing, or postage.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) wanted to know whether the Guild or their executive were always to be the sole arbiters as to what were the proper questions for them to discuss; or if a joint conference would be held annually for the purpose of discussing the Guild's future work.

Miss DAVIES said they did not exactly intend to submit their work, but to discuss the programme of the Guild at the particular time of the conference. They would have to remember, however, that certain subjects might be introduced during the year. The whole idea of the conference was to avoid friction in the future.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) suggested that the allocation of the money was nothing more than a mere book-keeping arrangement.

Miss DAVIES : I cannot quite feel that, because what right has the Board to control any money except what has been given by the Board ?

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) : With reference to the conferences that are proposed to be held, in the event of a disagreement coming between the two, would the Women's Guild consent to putting the matter before Congress and abiding by the decision of Congress on any disputed point ?

Miss DAVIES : That is a different proposal from the one we have made. I do not think we can pledge the Guild to abide by what Congress says. The Guild has no official representation in the movement. It would be for our Congress to decide.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section), with regard to the right of the Central Board to withhold grants from organisations, asked if that acknowledgment was without qualification as far as the deputation was concerned.

Miss DAVIES : I should say that for any kind of organisation to which the Board makes a grant, if they feel that that organisation is doing something that is detrimental to the movement, then they have a right to withhold the grant. While admitting that the Board has the right to withhold a grant, we claim the right to refuse it.

Mr. T. REDFEARN (North-Western Section) asked if the Guild were prepared to give up the divorce law reform agitation.

Miss DAVIES : It is the same answer as I gave to Mr. Gregory. It is entirely in the hands of our own Congress.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) : Is it not a fact that the agitation has lapsed since our decision on the matter, or since the war broke out ?

Miss DAVIES : Of course, there is not the same possibility of agitation neither last year nor possibly this year.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) asked if Miss Davies could agree to undertake that any money spent in advocating divorce law reform should be raised separately and distinctly for that purpose, and only from people subscribing voluntarily for that purpose.

Miss DAVIES said that was a difficult question, and one which the Central Committee and Congress would have to decide. As a matter of fact, what they had expended in the past, as far as they could differentiate, had been from the Citizenship Fund, as divorce law reform came under that head.

A MEMBER : If this compromise matures, you will receive the grant and continue divorce law reform propaganda ? Is that so ?

Miss DAVIES : The compromise is that the grant from the Board shall not be spent on the propaganda.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) asked if the women would give up the propaganda in the name of a co-operative organisation.

Miss DAVIES : I have already answered that in the reply to Mr. Gregory.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) moved a vote of thanks to the deputation, which was agreed to, and the meeting adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

On reassembling at two o'clock the meeting proceeded to consider the whole question of the grant to the Women's Guild and the compromise suggested.

Mrs. GASSON (Southern Section) moved—

That the discussion on the Women's Guild question close at 2-30.
The CHAIRMAN declared this carried.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read the following amendment to the Central Board resolution, which had been sent in by the Warrington Society:—

That the following words be added, viz., "subject to the final decision of Congress."

Mrs. GASSON wanted to know what had been the policy "hitherto pursued by the Central Board," as stated in the resolution. She also asked who was to decide whether a body was pursuing a policy detrimental to the co-operative movement—the Central Board, the United Board, or Congress?

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the Central Board had hitherto made the grants to outside bodies.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) said hitherto the Central Board had used its judgment; that was the policy it had pursued.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) thought they could discuss the subject *ad lib.* Miss Davies offered terms, and he was prepared to move that they accept them on condition that an annual conference be held between either the United Board and the Central Committee of the Guild, or representatives of each; that the programme for next winter be discussed and each party pledge itself to recommend acceptance of that decision to its respective Congress. He believed the women were earnest and honest in their work.

Mr. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) seconded. He thought it was the best way out. The Guild deputation that morning were trying to save the face of their executive and their organisation ("Question!") That was his view. They should meet them at least half way; that saved the honour of the Central Board, and they would give the Guild a way out.

Mr. H. M. BARBOUR (Irish Section) maintained that they could not subscribe to the Women's Guild and allow them to spend even their own money on this propaganda without being identified with it.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) wished he had the faith of Mr. Rae in supposing that by having a conference all the difficulties would disappear. If the Women's Guild were the only body, probably it would be all right, but there was the Men's Guild and the Shillito League. He did not see any compromise in the matter at all. The women proposed to have absolute freedom to take up any question they thought fit. Until the women agreed that Congress should be the determining body in the co-operative movement, he thought they should thrash the matter out. The question had been raised and carried so far that the Guild must either accept the decision made

last year, or go before Congress, and until the women had got the vote of Congress in favour of it, he did not think they were entitled to come to any compromise. He was strongly in favour of the union of forces, but he recognised that the movement was not prepared to accept it. Therefore, he was prepared to allow it to drop. If those who had strong convictions on one question allowed the matter to drop for the good of the movement, then he thought the women could do the same. He moved the resolution of the Central Board.

Mr. T. REDFERN (North-Western Section), in seconding, said they had got nothing from the deputation. He could appreciate what Mr. Rae said regarding conferences to discuss what the Guild should bring forward; but they, as a Central Board and a United Board, had emphatically said they would not pay this £400 until Congress approved, or until the Guild dropped the divorce law reform propaganda. It was the thin end of the wedge to get the £400. When the Guild had got it, they would snap their fingers at the Central Board. They should confirm the resolution they passed previously, that until the divorce law reform agitation was dropped the Guild should not have the £400, unless Congress decided otherwise, and they should confirm the resolution they passed before.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) said the problem, from his point of view, was not so much the question of divorce law reform, but whether there should be an authority to decide about these questions. He had seen this problem coming for years, and he thought they should be thankful that it had come on a question on which they could be unanimous. He did not think there was any subject too sacred to be discussed; he was only objecting to it being brought into the co-operative movement. Miss Davies said it was a social problem; another person would say it was a religious question, or a sex question; but he would say it was a boundaries question. They wanted the Central Board to be a kind of chairman of the co-operative movement, because the movement could not be carried on unless there was some deciding majority.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) thought it was very unwise for the Central Board to listen to the deputation from the Salford Catholic Federation last year and act on the suggestion they made. Although he was a member of the Church of England—which was almost as bad as the Roman Catholic Church, or about as good—and although his Church looked on divorce as objectionable, they had to abide by the laws of the land. The law permitted divorce on certain grounds, and the whole thing the Guild had been agitating for was that these grounds should be altered in the interests of the women, from a moral, a social, and a financial point of view. The present law operated to the disadvantage of the poorer classes of the community.

Mr. RAE rose to a point of order, and said they were not discussing divorce; they were considering whether they would accept the compromise suggested by the Guild.

Mr. JOHNSTON, continuing, said he wanted to show that the women

were quite justified in the action they had taken. He wanted to know why the Board had not taken exception to the women agitating for the suffrage. That was more objectionable to the movement than the divorce law reform agitation, because it was a political question. He thought they (the Board) were not justified in taking the action they were doing, because they did not take exception to local societies and district conference associations using the money they raised themselves for work apart from that of the society or association. If a district association raised money itself, it could use it for other purposes than co-operative propaganda.

The CHAIRMAN : The time has now come that you fixed for the closing of the discussion, and it must close. The resolution before the meeting is—

That we accept the compromise offered by the Women's Guild, on condition that the suggested conference be held annually, and that each party recommends to its Congress adoption of the proposals then agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting, and the voting was as follows :—For, 16 ; against, 33. The recommendation of the Central Board, as contained in the report, was then put, and it received 45 votes. No hands were held up against it.

GENERAL SURVEY COMMITTEE.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member of the Board) : I see from the report that the General Survey Committee is not in a position to make any report to Congress. I should like to know if the committee is still going on with its work.

The CHAIRMAN : Yes.

CONTRACTS WITH PUBLIC BODIES.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) drew attention to the paragraph headed "Contracts with Public Bodies," and said this question had been occupying the attention of the Scottish Section and the United Board during the past year. They were indebted to the United Board for securing Counsel's opinion on such an important matter as this. He did not know whether the position in England was the same as in Scotland, but in Scotland quite a number of men and women who were on co-operative bodies were taking an active interest in public boards. It was one of the ladies on a co-operative committee who had brought this question to the front. He had in mind Miss McNab, the daughter of the late Baillie McNab, who in his lifetime was a director of the Scottish Wholesale Society. Miss McNab was on the Leith School Board, and it was through her efforts to get the Leith Co-operative Society on the list of contractors for the School Board that the question referred to in the report had arisen. He knew they went in for pious resolutions, but in the present case he wanted them to do more than pass a pious resolution ; he wanted them to take action, and to take it as soon as possible. He suggested they should pass the matter on to the Joint

Parliamentary Committee, and ask them to try and influence the House of Commons to get the Act amended, so that co-operators who served on public bodies might be in the same position as men who were on shareholding companies. They desired no privileges; they sought no benefits which did not belong to other people; but they did desire to be in the same position as private companies for contracts for work for public bodies. They, as co-operators, had a serious grievance here. They knew very well if a member of a co-operative society sitting on these administrative boards took action in regard to contracts, there was the possibility, not of legislation, but of litigation of a very expensive character; and they wanted to steer clear of anything of that kind. That was why he urged they should ask the Parliamentary Committee to proceed for all they were worth in the direction he had indicated. He recognised they were living in abnormal times, but they must not overlook the fact that they would get through them.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the matter had been under the consideration of the United Board, and they had promised the Scottish Sectional Board that it should be remitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. They should not, however, be too hopeful of getting anything done at the moment, as all legislation for the present was legislation for the war.

HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER.

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced that the Hughes scholarship had been awarded to Mr. P. Heber Smith, of Edinburgh. Six out of the twelve candidates who entered for the examination passed their responsions, and the final decision hinged on the paper which dealt with co-operation.

RULES OF THE UNION.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that the South-Western Sectional Board had sent in a resolution asking Congress to increase the number of members of the Board from five to six. The Western Sectional Board was increased in number some time ago. The members of the South-Western Sectional Board thought their section was so wide that they were justified in asking for the increase. They would see from the report that four or five societies in the South-Western Section had sent in a resolution amending the rule governing voting, and he would like to include in the number Bridgwater, which did not appear in the list. It appeared that the societies in the section had not observed the rule in regard to elections, and the Sectional Board, who have had the matter under consideration, proposed to ask Congress to remit it back, in order that this rule (27) might be complied with. The solicitor to the Union, whom he had consulted in reference to the point, said the societies were in order; at the same time, he suggested it would be better to get the votes of the societies in the section.

Mr. W. J. GILBERT (South-Western Section) said the societies in the section had not agreed to a plan which had been submitted to them by the Sectional Board. They preferred to comply with the rules rather than Congress should deal with the matter.

OVERLAPPING IN WALES.

Mr. E. R. WOOD (Western Section) drew attention to the paragraph which dealt with overlapping in the Western Section, and asked whether a report was to be submitted to Congress in regard to it.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section), who was one of a small committee appointed by the United Board to deal with the question, said there were certain points they were anxious to consult the Western Sectional Board about before they prepared a report; consequently, they could not submit a report to this Congress.

Mr. E. R. WOOD said he wondered whether the committee could meet the Sectional Board before Congress, and then they might be able to submit a report.

Mr. J. POLLITT said he could not promise without consulting his colleagues on the committee, but he had no doubt he and they would be quite willing to meet the Sectional Board.

CONDEMNATION OF GERMANY.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that a number of societies had sent in the following resolution in regard to the war:—

That this Congress expresses its abhorrence at the carnage of war now being enacted throughout Europe. It puts on record its sense of indignation at the crime committed against Belgium and the disregard of the dictates of humanity by the German Government. It declares that no peace will be satisfactory, or can be permanent, which does not secure at least—First, the evacuation of Belgian territory by the invader; and, second, the future freedom of Europe from the menace of militarism. It also expresses a hope that provision may be made as speedily as possible for the setting up of an international tribunal to enforce the public law of nations and uphold the rights of small peoples.

Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P., should have moved the resolution on behalf of the Co-operative Printing Society, which was one of the signatories to the resolution, but at the invitation of the Government he had gone to Canada on their behalf. It had now been decided that Mr. A. Taylor (president of the Co-operative Printing Society) should move the adoption of the resolution at Congress. The Standing Orders Committee had accepted the resolution, and it would be brought before Congress in the usual way.

THE UNION AND CONVALESCENT FUNDS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that Mr. W. H. Bryant, of the Western Sectional Board, had sent in a notice of motion that they should consider the question of the Co-operative Union having direct representation on the various co-operative convalescent funds.

Mr. E. R. WOOD (Western Section) said Mr. Bryant should have moved

the resolution on behalf of the Western Section, but he had been called away, and he (Mr. Wood) would do it on his behalf. The question arose from the fact that the United Board, after setting up convalescent funds for the Midland, South-Western, and Western Sections, which they were enabled to do through the grant kindly given by the Wholesale Society, found themselves debarred from appointing direct representatives from the Co-operative Union on those committees. They helped to initiate the scheme for a convalescent fund, and then, when it got into working order they had to retire. In their opinion the Co-operative Union should be represented on all organisations that they really instituted. Their representatives had withdrawn from the convalescent Fund Committee because the rules did not permit them to do otherwise, but they could not see their way to accept that position without bringing the matter before the Central Board. The Wholesale Society was represented on the committee because it gave a large donation, and he thought the Co-operative Union should be represented on the committee also, and to entitle the Union to that representation, a small contribution to the Convalescent Fund would be necessary. The societies in the section had appreciated the work which members of the Sectional Board had done for the Convalescent Fund, and he thought some close relationship should exist between the Co-operative Union and the Convalescent Fund Committee in the future.

Mr. R. R. PRYNNE (South-Western Section) seconded the resolution. He thought the Co-operative Union should pay a small contribution to the fund, and claim representation for one of their members. It would give them a *locus standi* on the Convalescent Fund Committee.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) moved the previous question. He thought the constitution of the convalescent homes would have to be altered before they could take advantage of the suggestion made by the Western Sectional Board.

The GENERAL SECRETARY pointed out that in connection with the North-Western Convalescent Homes Association they would have to take up a certain number of shares before they could claim representation on the Board. The same remark was probably applicable to all the other convalescent homes associations and convalescent funds.

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) expressed the view that the proper people to manage these affairs were the business people in connection with their societies. He thought it would be a great mistake to affiliate the Co-operative Union in a business sense with these institutions. In his opinion, the proposal of the Western Sectional Board simply meant multiplying offices for the sake of being there.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section), speaking as the secretary of the Midland Convalescent Fund, said they could not move in the direction indicated by the resolution unless they altered the constitution of the fund. If Sectional Boards desired to be associated with co-operative convalescent homes or funds in their areas, they should get their members nominated by

societies affiliated with the associations or funds. That was how they did in the Midland Section.

Mr. H. J. MAY (hon. member of the Southern Board) seconded the previous question. He was afraid the idea of Sectional Board representation on convalescent funds would not receive much sympathy from the Southern Convalescent Fund. He did not think there was any chance of any resolution of that nature being considered by any of the convalescent homes associations or funds in the movement.

The previous question was then put to the vote and unanimously agreed to.

GRANTS TO WOMEN'S GUILD.

It was resolved that the usual grants of £150 and £30 to the Scottish Women's Guild and the Irish Women's Guild respectively be paid.

THE UNION'S WAR BONUS.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) said in the minutes of the last United Board meeting there was one to the effect that a war bonus of 10 per cent should be paid to all the employés of the Co-operative Union. When that particular minute came before the North-Western Sectional Board, they took very strong exception to the wording of the resolution. They recognised that many of their societies were already paying a war bonus to their employés. It was not the principle of a war bonus altogether they took exception to, but to the method of its application. They also recognised that they were all called upon to make some sacrifices in the present crisis in the nation's affairs. He thought there was scarcely one of them who had not, at one time or another, made some protest against people making profits out of the war. The minute of the United Board on this question of a war bonus not only made it certain that—and he was not speaking personally at all; it was simply a matter of principle—people were not making sacrifices but would probably be making a profit out of the transaction. He knew there had been an increase in prices, but the effect of that increase in prices would be more than counterbalanced by the amount of the war bonus; consequently they did not think a resolution of that character should carry. It was contrary to everything they were saying and doing. They (the North-Western Sectional Board) sent a resolution to the United Board to the effect that a limit be fixed to the amount of salary beyond which no bonus should be paid, and he asked them to endorse that resolution that morning.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Sectional Board) seconded the resolution, because of what Mr. Pollitt had said, and on the further ground that a war bonus should only be paid to people in receipt of small wages. He did not see any justification for the Sub-office Committee making this recommendation. He asked at their Sectional Board meeting how recently had the wages and salaries of the office staff been advanced, and he was informed that most of the members of the staff had had their wages advanced in February last, six months after the war. If they were not in a position to

meet extra expenses before February, the increase which they then received in their wages should enable them to do so. He was not in a position to know anything about the wages or salaries their officials got, and he thought he and the other members of the Central Board ought to have that information in their possession. They were entirely in the dark as to what they were paying to the members of their staff. He really did not see any breach of confidence in putting them, who were elected by the co-operative movement to manage the affairs of the Union, in possession of the facts regarding the payments they made to their staff for services rendered. The payment might be very good or it might be very bad. He trusted the staff would not take it amiss if they decided to fix a limit for the payment of bonus, because, as had been suggested, other people were making sacrifices. In the Manchester Corporation no employes had received advances except in one or two small exceptional cases. He was quite prepared to think that their staff would be willing to do the same.

Mr. H. STUTTARD (North-Western Section): When the United Board passed the resolution in regard to the war bonus, was it intended that it should apply to all employes of the Union? If so, have they all received it?

The GENERAL SECRETARY assured the Board that the staff had no feeling in the matter, that the suggestion of a war bonus did not come from them, and that they were quite prepared to make the same sacrifices as any other body. The suggestion that the members of the staff should be paid a war bonus emanated from the Scottish Sectional Board; it was considered by the United Board, and remitted to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, after consideration, made a recommendation to the Office Committee, and that committee, with one dissentient, agreed to it. From then up to now the war bonus had been paid. The matter was again broached on Friday last week, and he suggested then, as he suggested now, that they should remit the matter to the United Board for reconsideration. Mr. Johnston had been wrongly informed *re* the increase of salaries of the staff; the advances were made in November last and not in February.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) said it was absolutely essential that every member of the Central Board should know the salaries being paid to the office staff. The General Secretary had been asked that morning in regard to the increase in expenses of the Union from year to year. He replied saying he was not in a position to explain the increase at the moment, and promised a statement at their meeting on Tuesday. He (Mr. Millerchip) suggested that their General Secretary should give them at the same time the salaries being paid to members of their office staff.

Mr. J. ALLAN (Scottish Section) explained the reasons of the Scottish Sectional Board in raising the question of a war bonus for members of the Union staff. He said there were quite a number of co-operative employes working hard and long hours in order to make up for those who had gone to the front. He would very much regret if they had to evacuate the position taken up by the United Board, and would prefer seeing them approve of the action decided upon by the Board.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) was understood to say that he did not think the Central Board should be dictated to by one section. He thought the United Board had taken the right step, and they had set an example to the distributive societies. They could not say that the cost of living had not increased at a greater rate than 10 per cent. He thought they would be placing themselves in an invidious position if, having paid the bonus, they should take it back.

Mr. M. H. CLEAR (Southern Section) said Mr. Allan had referred to increase of work as a justification for the war bonus. He hardly saw how that applied to their own staff, as their General Secretary had told them they had taken on another assistant. An increase in the staff should lessen and not increase the work.

The CHAIRMAN: One member of the staff is away and we are paying his family.

Mr. CLEAR said he strongly objected to paying war bonuses to people receiving high salaries. He was quite prepared to do something for the bottom dog—for the man who was not getting a decent "screw."

Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER (North-Western Section) said he was pleased to hear their General Secretary say the members of the staff had no feeling in the matter. Personally, he believed war bonuses acted detrimentally to the working men, and he would not be surprised if, in paying them, they were sowing the seeds of future trouble. He spoke as one who had had some experience of labour troubles. It was nearly always the man with a salary who received a war bonus. Trade in Lancashire was going down, and in his opinion it was the operatives—the people who were working three and four days a week—who were going to pay this war bonus. It was grossly unfair that those people should be called to pay excessive prices which would undoubtedly follow the payment of war bonuses.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) said he would like a definition as to what was a large and what was a small wage. A man with a salary of £600 a year might think he was getting a small salary, and a man receiving £2 a week might consider he was well paid. He was not against a war bonus. Other members of the Board took up a different attitude. The movement should lead on this question, as it always did lead; and he contended that their staff must be extended just now, as one member was away. He, personally, was not receiving a war bonus, but he was not going to stand in the way of other people getting one.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section), replying to the discussion, said all they wanted that meeting to do was to accept the principle. He recognised that the United Board was the body to say the amount up to which a bonus should be paid. The members of that Board knew the particular circumstances of the whole position. Very probably they all had different views as to the amount of salary beyond which no bonus should be paid. The societies in Manchester had fixed 45s. He was not going to ask them to stop at that, but what he did say was that there should be a limit. The United Board had an idea as to what increase there had been

in the cost of living, and as to how it should be met in the case of their staff. He suggested they should leave out the amount of salary, and simply say that there should be a limit as to the amount on which they would add a bonus.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) suggested that the limit be £150, and that salaries above that amount should not receive an addition in the way of bonus.

The GENERAL SECRETARY thought the better plan would be to leave the matter to the United Board, because there were special circumstances attaching to one or two members of the staff, and living was not the same in one centre as in another. The United Board had now got an idea as to their views, and they should be left to deal with the question.

It was unanimously agreed that the matter should be left in the hands of the United Board, and, having arrived at that decision, the members of the Board passed a vote of thanks to their chairman, and then separated.

CONGRESS EXHIBITION.

The speeches at the opening of the Congress Exhibition had the true co-operative ring about them. The exhibition was held in the Empress Skating Rink, Aylestone Road. The opening ceremony was performed on the Saturday afternoon by Mr. Amos Mann, a veteran co-operator of the Midlands, and chairman of the Leicester Co-operative Society. There was a good attendance of delegates when the proceedings commenced. Mr. G. Hayhurst (director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society) presided, and among those who accompanied him on the platform were Messrs. T. J. Henson and W. Lander (directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society), R. Halstead (Productive Federation), and J. Butcher (Rugby), and W. B. Stocks (secretary of the Reception Committee).

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. G. Hayhurst) said they had met again on their birthday. Some people had wondered why they were having an exhibition, or why they were having a Congress in view of the distressful state of the country. When it was announced that it was to be "business as usual," he thought it was essential that they should keep on with the spread of their ideas, in the hope that the war would soon be over and things would be again as they were. If the Government were having a World's Fair in order to show what was being done in a certain country (he would not mention it) in order to capture trade, he thought it was equally essential that co-operators should hold their annual exhibition to show their own people what they themselves could do. But he would ask them, How long yet were they waiting to complete their purpose? He had to ask

them all to see their own things. He had to welcome the public also in order to tell them that the exhibits partly belonged to them. Everything there they would find in the Leicester co-operative shops, and he wanted them to join in the great cause. They should, he said, draw closer and closer together, for the day was coming when they would have to have more cohesion of forces—not fusion of forces, but cohesion of all the forces within the movement. If there was more working together, they need not fear their foes outside the movement, the foes they had to fear most were those within their own ranks. How long would it be yet before the people realised the power they had got through co-operation? It was the difficulties within the movement that he and they should help to overcome, and every individual present was proportionately responsible for the welfare of the movement. They would see that in the catalogue of the Exhibition there were fifty exhibitors. There was a great brother on one side and a little brother on the other side. He was casting no reflections with regard to any difference in position, or character, but when there were twenty men and twenty associations pointing out to them the same thing, he asked them how long yet before they had the marriage that ought to be? As business people they would realise that it was factors within them that ought to be brought into closer contact, and that it was inside where economies could be exercised and the position of every manager and society strengthened; that should be their policy. When the day arrived that they would realise in trade in a similar way they realised in financial matters, they would be an absolutely irresistible force. Nobody grumbled about the finance. But there were a few societies that would not save money in their own movement. But he wanted to say that by their present methods of finance—between what they would have to pay outside, and what they paid themselves—they were saving at least from £4,000,000 to £5,000,000 every year. If that could be done by cohesion surely in the name of reason it could be done by cohesion within themselves.

Mr. AMOS MANN, in opening the Exhibition, said that no more congenial part in connection with the Leicester Congress could possibly have been given to him than that allotted to him that afternoon—the opening of the Co-operative Productive Exhibition. The larger portion of his working life had been spent in advocating co-operative production, and whatever ability he had possessed had been freely used to promote its growth, believing, as he did believe, that through co-operative production the workers of the country might and did obtain great benefits. His sympathy with its work was wholehearted, and he believed that by accelerating its pace the worker would come into his own more quickly. He was, therefore, anxious for a rapid move in this direction. The co-operative movement as a whole had proved its value to the workers in many ways. From the distributive side no one could deny its success. In the short space of seventy years it had built up a retail business of many millions of pounds sterling, and continued every year to beat its former records. But the founders of the movement realised from the very first that to sell goods over the counter was

only one side of the work they desired to do. Therefore, the Rochdale Pioneers made it clear that one of their objects was to manufacture the products they required for use, in their own workshops and factories; and they endeavoured early in their career to carry this out in practice. What they attempted in a small way had now grown to respectable proportions; but every co-operator who thought at all realised the comparative slowness of this side of their work, and desired to expedite its progress. They all realised that production was a more difficult task than distribution, and that consequently more care and consideration were needed to carry out successfully this side of their work; but they had no reason to be ashamed of the work already accomplished, or the bulk of trade achieved up to the present time. The two schools of productive activity represented in the exhibition that day made a turnover of £14,629,524, of which £11,916,365 was manufactured by the Co-operative Wholesale Societies of England and Scotland, and £2,713,169 by the co-operative productive societies. This by no means exhausted the whole of co-operative production, however, for distributive societies throughout the country manufactured various commodities, which, according to the Board of Trade and Co-operative Union figures were of £14,000,000 value. These commodities were in addition to what were produced by the Wholesale Societies and the co-operative productive societies, whose wares were exhibited there that day. Of course, even these figures were a very small item of the nation's productions, but they were of sufficient importance and volume to show the capacity of the worker, and they represented an object-lesson of how ordinary working men in association could produce remarkable results by, and through, their own efforts. They showed what might be accomplished by fuller combination and associated work. The late Mr. W. E. Gladstone once impressed upon his hearers the value of co-operation in the following words:—

“An obstacle to the co-operation of working men is the difficulty of getting good, sufficient, and trustworthy instruments for giving it effect; but wherever that can be done I commend it without limit. I cannot say what I think of the value of it. I hope it will extend to other things which it has scarcely yet touched. I hope it will extend to all the amusements and recreations of the working man. It fosters a strong sentiment of self-respect among working men. It fosters a strong sentiment of independence; and yet the sentiment of independence appears to me to be entirely free from all tendency to do injustice to anybody.”

An object lesson of what Mr. Gladstone believed to be possible was there before them that day. The object and aim of the co-operative movement were not merely to manufacture every article co-operators needed in their own workshops and factories, but they desired finally to find employment under co-operative conditions for all their members who needed employment. Many of them realised that this could not be done through distribution or through distributive societies alone, but that co-operative associations of producers must be built up and commodities made by them carried into the

open market of commerce. This, said Mr. Mann, was not such a Utopian idea as some of them might think, for they had examples of co-operative societies which made goods under the best possible labour conditions, and yet were able to sell those products in the ordinary markets of the world. But they had a long way to go before they overtook the demands of their present members. If they were only wise, however, progress would be quicker and the pace made much faster. It had been calculated, on a basis that seemed to admit of no doubt, that if co-operators would use the profits they made in their stores during any twelve years (instead of drawing them out and spending them in other directions) in the producing of articles, in that short period every co-operator could be employed in a co-operative workshop. If this were true, what an industrial revolution could be peacefully brought about, if all working-class savings in trade unions and friendly societies were used in the promotion of such objects? The workers had their salvation in their own hands. Foolishly, however, their money was given to bankers, who lent it out to manufacturers, to be largely used against the workers.

Proceeding, the speaker said he would not like to open an exhibition of that character without referring more particularly to the workshops and factories themselves. Those products represented much more than the mere material articles they saw; they spoke of much greater things. He had not the slightest hesitation in saying, without the least fear of successful contradiction, that the workers whose products were seen there, enjoyed, on the whole, the best conditions regarding wages, hours of labour, or other conditions of employment in like trades in the whole of the country. He could not particularise every workshop, but they had there one trade, viz., printing, in which trade there were workshops in several towns, and all had a 48-hour week. There were factories in a sweated trade like clothing, which worked a like number of hours; and they even had boot factories which also had an eight-hour day; while every workshop represented there paid at least the full trade-union rate of wages of the district in which it was situated. In one set of factories they also had the actual workers partners in the business, receiving a portion of the profits they helped to make, in addition to their full trade-union wage; and in some of the workshops the workers were actually managing their own business—an ideal state of employment. He told them these things so that they would understand, when they saw the exhibits, that the worker had been considered in their production far more than he could be without co-operation.

Continuing, Mr. Mann said that before the terrible conflict in which they were now engaged, the control of industry and how that was to be brought about in order that greater contentment should be the rule in their industrial life, were burning questions. They would be burning questions again when this war was over. Many theories had been advocated and many systems of control presented to the people of this land. All were agreed that the present system was bad and could not last. It was evident that the system that gave the greatest income to the few and the smallest

income to the many stood self-condemned and must perish. Methods of control both violent and peaceful had been suggested—systems which, upon close examination, had in them grave dangers, and the best of which seemed, so far as practical results were concerned, very far off. He suggested that they had object lessons there that day, showing how control of industry could be obtained, which gave immediate benefit to the mass of the workers, and which could be continued to an almost unlimited extent and do no injury, but rather help forward any other practical method of control that the future might set forth. The education of the worker accomplished thereby would make him more and more fit for future responsibility. They claimed for the co-operative movement that it did not merely benefit those who were wise enough to enter it; indeed the whole of the community was better because of this co-operative work. Lovell said:—

“He’s true to God who’s true to man
Wherever wrong is done to the humblest and the weakest
’Neath the beholding sun,
And they are slaves most base,
Whose love for right is for themselves,
And not for all the race.”

The co-operative movement was seeking to benefit the race, with special attention to that portion styled the workers. Co-operation sought to bring the control of industry within the reach of the workers, not by questionable methods, not by violent means, but by honest, safe, and common-sense ways, believing that no movement was good or lasting that was not based upon fair dealing, with a moral foundation to support it. Co-operation did not seek to rob capital of its rights, but to give capital its fair wages and declare that it must be the servant and not the master of the labourer. The workers had been so long kept out of reaping the results they had been the means of bringing about; they had sown and not been permitted to reap the fruits for so long that, in the words of a writer, they had asked: “What profits it to sow?”

“Truth is the precious harvest of the earth,
But once when harvests waved upon a land,
The awesome cankerworm and caterpillar, locusts,
And all the swarming foul-horned broods,
Fastened upon it with swift, greedy jaws
And turned the harvest into pestilence,
Until men said: ‘What profits it to sow?’”

In the co-operative movement they showed men it was profitable to sow, because the harvest was reaped by the sowers; at least that was so to a much larger extent than under any other system.

He hoped the time was not far distant when their productions would be taken into the markets of the world, and when they would obtain more control over the sources of raw material, as only then would they fully exercise a right influence on the nation’s commerce; only then would they

be able to check capital and the exploitation of the people with regard to the land. A prophet of old said: "The people that see no vision shall perish." He saw visions of the future when co-operators would own coal-fields and cornfields, when the skins would be tanned, when the wool would be grown, and when the cottonfields would be worked under co-operative auspices. It might not be yet, and he might not live to see it, but the time was surely coming, and they trusted the present Congress might help forward such a time. All present that day could do their part in bringing this good time nearer, by carefully buying the commodities they needed from sources untainted by sweating, and they could all resolve to work energetically to forward such a glorious issue to their work.

"No man's labour for good is in vain,
 Though he win not the crown but the cross;
 Every wish for man's good is a gain,
 Every doubt of man's gain is a loss.
 Not the price that we bargain to pay,
 But the price that she sets on herself
 Is the value of truth. Who can weigh
 What the weight of her worth is in help
 To the soul, whose life-long endeavour
 Age has won from the losses of youth?
 The mere loss of an untruth is ever
 Good, as great as the gain of a truth."

This was quoted by the biographer of the father of our movement, Robert Owen, to express in some faint way his love of the work he was engaged in. They should hold it forth as the ideal of their future action, and go forth determined that co-operative production should be speeded up; that through it the workers of this country should be made happier, more contented, and altogether better. They had dreams of the future. One poet said:—

"What shall I see in shadowland—
 The land where the future lies?
 Will the dreams come true which boyhood planned—
 Some foolish, some weak, some wise?
 Oh, sweet are the dreams we dreamed in youth,
 All woven with threads of gold;
 Our fancies live in a palace of truth,
 Where doubts never win a hold."

Their dreams of future happiness and competence for the workers of this country would come true, if they were true to the principles of the movement.

Amidst applause, Mr. Mann then declared the exhibition open.

Mr. T. J. HENSON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) assured the audience his duty would be briefly performed. He expressed his admiration for the fortitude of the people on the floor, who had listened with so much patience, for he felt that if it was bad for those who were on the platform it must be

worse for the people to be so crowded down below on such a warm day. His duty was to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman and the opener of the exhibition. It was the usual thing to do, he said ; but he did not see why it should be done for he was sure there was not one present but would be proud to occupy the position of these gentlemen. He thought co-operators were always regarded as practical people, and he suggested that the vote of thanks should take the practical form. What had they organised that exhibition for ? Why all the expense of erecting stalls, hiring the hall, producing those goods, and bringing them there to show people the goods they themselves made ? It should be absolutely unnecessary. Mr. Mann had just told them that if they would put aside the profits for twelve years they could employ every co-operator in the country. There was a nearer way to the goal. The delegates could give practical effect to their vote of thanks that week. If every delegate, every member of committee, and every manager would take the lesson of the exhibition to heart, and would realise that if the goods they themselves produced were put on their own counters, and sold to their own people, co-operation would make great strides forward. It was pleasant to reflect that in these dark and difficulties times that particular side of the movement was showing signs of strong life. The increase in the distributive side of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's trade for the last twenty weeks was about three-and-a-quarter millions. That was at the rate of 26·4 per cent, but the increase in the productive trade of the Co-operative Wholesale Society was one-and-a-half millions, or 45 per cent. Every individual co-operator could do something to increase co-operative productions still more, and to strengthen all the productive institutions represented there, and he begged those present to give practical effect to the vote of thanks he asked them to accord Mr. Hayhurst and Mr. Mann. He was asked by the Co-operative Union to present these gentlemen with specially bound copies of "Industrial Co-operation," and he did so with the greatest possible pleasure. The copies were splendid specimens of the bookbinders' art ; and the volume contained food for thought. If these gentlemen got weary in the fight in years to come, when they opened this volume they would find inspiration for further efforts and the gifts would also remind them of the pleasurable duty they had performed that day.

Mr. R. HALSTEAD (Co-operative Productive Federation), who seconded the vote of thanks to Mr. Hayhurst and Mr. Mann, agreed with Mr. Henson that the visitors to the exhibition should not only thank these gentlemen personally, but should let their gratitude take the practical form by commending the goods there shown and buying them from their respective stores. The time in which we were living made it questionable whether that gathering should be held ; but while our troops were fighting for the external interests of the country, co-operators had to stand for peaceful industry and to see that business was as usual. That exhibition was a testimony to what co-operators could do. Mr. Hayhurst and Mr. Mann represented the distributive and productive sides of the movement and he

had to second—as he did very heartily—the vote of thanks that had been proposed. He had also to hand over to them souvenirs of the occasion in the form of copies of the Productive Federation's Year Book. The books looked like little brothers of those already presented to them; but Mr. Hayhurst and Mr. Mann would both find them worth reading.

Mr. J. BUTCHER (Rugby) supported the vote of thanks to his two old friends. Mr. Hayhurst, he said, had touched upon one little point connected with the productive side of co-operation. They wanted co-operative production and it was that side of the movement to which they had all to put their shoulders. He did not believe in absorption; but he believed in amalgamation, and he suggested that they might get the Wholesale and the productive societies amalgamated. Referring to loyalty he said that if he had his will managers would buy all they wanted in the movement and none outside. If a manager could not buy inside the movement, he would find one that could.

Mr. T. E. SHOTTON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) said he spoke in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Tweddell, the chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, who was ill at home. He had been asked to make another presentation to the speaker and to the chairman in the name of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. It was a pleasure to him to be there, for it was a wonderful eye-opener to many to see what co-operators were doing. The co-operative movement—the Wholesales and the allied societies were altogether what the societies chose to make them, and the more loyal the societies were to their own institutions the better co-operators would they be, and the greater would the progress of the movement be. He was pleased to have the opportunity of associating himself with the other speakers on that occasion. He had to present to Mr. Hayhurst and Mr. Mann special copies of the Wholesale Societies' Annual. He hoped the books would be valued as souvenirs of the occasion and would be handed down to posterity as treasures and as reminders of the part these gentlemen had played in the development of the movement.

Mr. SHOTTON then formally put the vote of thanks to the audience.

Mr. MANN, acknowledging the vote of thanks, said it was a great pleasure to perform the duty he had performed. He thanked the gentlemen who had been good enough to present those beautiful volumes.

The CHAIRMAN also acknowledged the gifts and thanked the audience for their patience. He reminded the audience that they were hearing a good deal of talk about getting to the raw material. "I will tell you something," he continued. "Last year we bought 6,000 acres of land; before you are two years' older you will have several other thousands. Every day and every week we are searching for the very thing that people are talking about. As soon as we have become the biggest landowners in Britain the better for the co-operative movement. We have not lost sight of that and we are driving hard in that direction."

The formal proceedings then terminated.

THE CONGRESS LUNCHEON.

The luncheon by the Congress Reception Committee to the Central Board of the Co-operative Union took place on the Saturday preceding the Whit-Monday in the County Assembly Room. Mr. George Bastard presided, supported by the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman J. North and Mrs. North), Messrs. J. R. Macdonald, M.P., C. W. Bowerman, M.P., and Aneurin Williams, M.P., W. J. Douse, A. Whitehead, J. Nugent Harris, H. J. May, and the leaders of the movement in the Leicester district.

In proposing the loyal toast Mr. Bastard referred to the visits that the King and Queen had paid to industrial centres as evidence of their concern in those matters that affected the welfare of the people. They had no more loyal subjects than co-operators.

The toast having been heartily drunk the Chairman voiced the welcome of the assembly to the Mayor and Mayoress, and the representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society—the greatest commercial concern in the whole world conducted by working men. They were proud, too, of their productive societies where they had men working side by side in the interests of each other and reaping rewards of their own labours. He had been an advocate of co-partnership for thirty years and the older he grew the more he loved the cause, because he saw in it a means of avoiding industrial disputes. In Leicester, too, they were proud of their distributive society of 24,000 members. They had taught the people to keep out of debt and if they could get them to live a week beforehand and avoid the errors of debt they had done something.

THE TOWN OF LEICESTER.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE proposed "The Civic and Commercial Prosperity of Leicester." From inquiries he had made he had come to the conclusion that there was no nobler citizen in Leicester than the present mayor. Co-operation bulked very largely in the commercial world of Leicester; it had helped to make the town what it was. It was a clean, healthy, and progressive town that was also a hospitable centre of population. He wished Leicester all the prosperity that its prudent citizens desired.

Alderman NORTH, in responding to the toast which was cordially received, said he had no hesitation in expressing his pleasure and his intention of giving their great organisation all the recognition that lay in his power. He hoped it would be a long time before anyone occupying such a position as he did would allow selfish considerations to stand in the way of recognising a body which had such a remarkable record as the co-operative movement. Leicester was, to a Leicester man, incomparable. It was said that Leicester was "anti" everything; that might be a mark of superiority. Leicester people were thoughtful and examined those things that were put before them. They were men of conviction and men of courage. The town had no really natural advantages. It was in a basin and suffered originally

from the floods. But the Corporation had grappled with that problem spending large sums for the benefit of the people living and to come. They had done their work well, and the early Corporation workers should be remembered with gratitude. The population in 1896 was 194,000; it was now 233,000, and the rateable value which was £708,000 in the former year was now £1,130,000. It was much better to have their towns of moderate size than to have masses of the people living in circumstances that were deplorable. Leicester was large enough. It was impossible to make any better use of money than in the direction of promoting the health, happiness, and general welfare of their people. Commercially they had provided people with good understanding. Leicester was the largest centre in the country for the manufacture of boots and shoes. They had built up a reputation they need not be ashamed of. The men were working under conditions altogether superior to those of a quarter of a century ago. Whether they were in trade as co-operators or private firms they should all be actuated by the same high motives. Wealth was produced by the joint efforts of capital and labour and should be so used as to promote the welfare and the general happiness of the whole of the community.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD, M.P., proposed "The Co-operative Movement." They had not, he said, broken their traditions in asking him to propose the toast for he had been a member of a co-operative society till the other day he removed from the district. But he would re-make the connection. Who, he asked, was going to tell the story of the co-operative movement? It did not matter how or where they turned. The co-operative movement showed them how to succeed in that particular line. If they were interested in ordinary trade the co-operative movement was the greatest commercial success of modern times. If they were concerned with democratic government the co-operative movement was a conspicuous proof of its success. It had proved that working men taken from the workshop could apply their minds to business and could solve the great problems of distribution, production, and exchange. They were not remaining content with the activities of their own country, but could go to the uttermost ends of the earth and bring to our own British markets the richest and best products of those places. How well they had progressed—and how the present position was an earnest of how much more successful they would be in the future. Were they interested in democratic morals and democratic self-government? There, again, the magnificent display that the co-operative movement had given the people was a conspicuous example of what democracy could do—when democracy had its chance. The fields they covered, the interests they possessed, and the aspirations of their ideals were so many as to form a subject the richness of which was as embarrassing as the honour which had been placed upon him of proposing the toast. When the Congress was in Leicester in 1877 co-operators were congratulated in unlimited terms on their sales of £21,390,000, when the capital invested

was only $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions; in 1912 the sales had grown to £130,500,000 and the capital to $64\frac{1}{2}$ millions. If those who were present at Leicester in 1877 used their dictionaries to the utmost to express their pleasure at a trade of 21 millions how bankrupt was the English language in expressing satisfaction with a trade of over 130 millions sterling. They should take care that their cash did not lose them their soul. The co-operative movement was not a money-making concern. Money-making with co-operators was a means to an end and that end was the uplifting of the people of the country, to put them on a strong, firm, unassailable foundation of personal and individual liberty. They should not forget that end; and he did not think they would. What was the most precious memory that the co-operative movement had got? They were proud, and rightly proud, of their success. That was insignificant compared with their origin. Those men going with a sort of shame to take down the shutters of their little store in the midst of a jeering crowd—that was the most precious memory that the co-operative movement had. Of the future he (the speaker) would not trust himself to say anything in his adopted town. Leicester was not an “anti” place at all. The people who went ahead were always called “anti.” Leicester was always “pro.” Its faith had always been positive; they could see that in the co-operative movement of Leicester. The faith of the town was seen in everything they put their hands to. They could go to the productive factories—belonging to one side or other of the movement—they could go down to the stores and look on the activity that prevailed and they would see the great characteristic that prevailed in Leicester co-operation, illustrating the magnificent and eternal profession of an undying faith in human honour and human endeavour. The activity and energy which had characterised the whole movement since those early precious days continued. In 1877 the papers read dealt with such questions as the relation between co-operation and trade-unionism. There was not a Labour party in those days or they would have heard something about that. The late Mr. Holyoake read a paper on “Labour Exchanges” which were very different from those that had been established. Co-operators had taken a long time to put those things on the shelf. At the present moment they were doing for the country a service which would be done by nobody else. Economic forces were at work to enable prices to be forced up without regard to what was just, what was moral, or what was fair. To its eternal credit it would be said that the co-operative movement had done everything it possibly could, so that the faces of the poor should not be further ground. In Belgium—devastated, bleeding, outraged—with its social life swept away as though a great tornado of evil had passed over the country, there was no organisation that had kept its activity better than the Belgian co-operative movement, and there was no agency that was taking succour to the poor Belgians with more success, enthusiasm, and persistence than the co-operative movement in Great Britain. He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. E. O. Greening. They of the younger generation felt a strange affection for those of the old, who had taught them to inquire into what they

believed and held steadfast to the truth. Co-operation had a great past. He had contrasted 1877 with 1912; who was to contrast 1950 with 1915? He felt sure that the benefits would be multiplied ten, twenty, and a hundred fold before the Congress next visited Leicester.

Mr. E. O. GREENING responded to the toast. Co-operation would help to regenerate the nation after the time of trial. They were mitigating the evil of the present day by borrowing the money of their children and grandchildren. Europe was spending twelve millions a day on war. What would happen when every country had accumulated a gigantic debt? How was the burden to be lifted? How were the nations to find redemption? There was only one way. There was an unexplored mine of the intelligence of human labour which Great Britain had not, as yet, had the full advantage of. They did not know the capacity under the caps of the workers. We had never given them an opportunity to show their powers. Looking at the profits of the co-operative movement it was evident that the working people had been able to make $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of clear profits upon their capital. Was there anything in the whole range of industry that could show anything like that result? It arose from the new impulse in the hearts of the people. They were content with 5 per cent interest and after that linked the interests of labour and capital together. In the seven co-partnership productive societies at Leicester last year $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent average profit was made upon the capital employed. The work of co-operation was to show the workers how to redeem themselves.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Belfast) proposed "International Co-operation." Never before had the toast been submitted in the absence of a foreign visitor, and never under circumstances of such international gloom. No one dreamt at Dublin that within two months they would have the principal nations of Europe locked in battle. Had anyone then suggested that men made in the image of God could have been guilty of such horrible brutality they would have scouted the idea as absurd. To every friend of freedom and every believer in rational methods of settling disputes the present experience was full of humility. It would fill their hearts with the deepest gloom if they had not faith in the eternal verities of life. Co-operators of this and every other land tendered to Mr. Aneurin Williams and his colleagues of the International Co-operative Alliance a full and generous measure of sympathy and support. They were not of those who thought that the poverty of one nation was essential to the welfare of the others. They believed that each nation had its part to play in the economy of civilisation. The highest conception of patriotism was not inconsistent with having respect for other nations. War was diametrically opposed to the co-operative idea—the antithesis to the highest sacrifice and aspirations of mankind. As opposed to the mischievous idea of international hate they preached international brotherhood. The people should comfort themselves with calmness so

that when the war was over they could work with those with whom they were now in antagonism. They looked to the future with hope, courage, and confidence in the power of their plea and the justice of their cause. Co-operation would do its part.

Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P., in responding as the chairman of the executive committee of the International Co-operative Alliance, said they were striving for international co-operation in two senses. They had tried to bring the co-operators of one country and another together so that they might know what each was doing in their own lands. In that they had been fairly well successful. There was far more known with regard to the co-operative movement of France, Germany, Russia, Denmark, and other nations than when they began. There was far more known in Denmark, Russia, Germany, France, and other countries with reference to the English co-operative movement than was previously the case. They had learned much of the forms of co-operation that had been successful abroad—in connection with agriculture, credit, &c. And those in other lands had learned of the success of the Rochdale co-operation in this country. They also wanted international co-operation in the sense of being some little help towards bringing the nations to work together in friendliness and in mutual help. In that they had failed, but not only had they failed—all the forces that were working for the peace of the world had failed with them. It was the collapse and bankruptcy of their hopes so far. Yet he believed the time would come when the men of England having done all their duties as patriots and the men of other countries having also done their duty, and all having suffered terribly, would see peace once more established in the world. Then they would renew their work. Their hopes had been defeated but there was no reason why they should be afraid. They would take their work up again and go on with it and the International Co-operative Alliance, which had sprung out of the English co-operative movement, of which Mr. Greening was one of the early workers, would go forward. A French co-operator who was now serving with the army had asked that the alliance should be kept impartial because it gave the greatest hope when the war was over of bringing the democracies of Europe together again. Thus they might hope to solve the problem of the world's peace. Therefore Mr. Whitehead and others associated with them would continue to give their utmost to the work of the cause.

Mr. AMOS MANN proposed the toast of "The Press," to which Mr. W. H. BROWN (London) responded, stating that in the co-operative journals of to-day the hopes of the democracy were given the fullest expression.

On the motion of Mr. J. H. Holden (manager of the Leicester Co-operative Society), seconded by Alderman F. Smith, thanks were tendered to Mr. Bastard for his chairmanship, as well as for his long service to the co-operative movement.



FIRST DAY OF CONGRESS.



MONDAY, 24th MAY, 1915.



MORNING SITTING.

The Congress opened at the usual hour on the Monday morning, and the prospects of a highly successful gathering were everywhere apparent. The duly appointed delegates were, for the most part, in their places punctually at 9-30 a.m., and the spacious gallery surrounding the hall was well filled with visitors. The chair was occupied by Mr. Robert Fleming at the outset, and he was supported, amongst others, by Mr. Bastard (the President of the Congress), Mr. W. J. Douse, Sir H. J. Vansittart Neale, Mr. E. O. Greening, Mr. Bowerman, M.P. (representative of the Trades Union Congress), Mr. J. J. Dent (Board of Trade), readers of Congress papers (Messrs. A. Williams, M.P., and G. Thorpe), Mr. F. Hall (adviser of studies at Holyoake House), Mr. A. Whitehead (general Secretary of the Co-operative Union), Mr. T. Horrocks (assistant secretary), Mr. T. Wood (auditor of the Co-operative Union), Mr. H. J. May (secretary of the International Co-operative Alliance), Alderman J. North (Mayor of Leicester)—who gave a hearty welcome to the Congress—members of the Central Board and Congress Reception Committee, and prominent co-operators from all parts of the country. Messrs. C. W. Crook and E. W. Jones had been appointed to attend the Congress on behalf of the National Union of Teachers, but they did not arrive until later.

Mr. ROBERT FLEMING (the retiring president), having taken the chair, stated that, by the request of a large number of delegates, the Standing

Orders Committee had made arrangements, in view of these times of national stress and difficulty, to open the proceedings with the singing of the National Anthem.

The delegates having joined together in singing the Anthem, Mr. Fleming proceeded to say that it was a genuine personal pleasure to have to initiate the proceedings of this Forty-seventh Annual Congress by introducing to them his friend Alderman J. North, the mayor of the ancient and historic borough within whose portals they were met. Alderman North was the head of a large and successful boot and shoe firm, and as such the interests of his Worship were somewhat antagonistic to their own; but, as a broad-minded and progressive citizen, he was not straightlaced by any narrow commercial consideration, and he was there that day to extend to them a cordial and official welcome to the town of Leicester.

THE MAYOR'S WELCOME.

The MAYOR, who on rising was greeted warmly by the delegates, said it was his privilege on the previous Saturday evening to meet a number of their leaders, and he then extended to them a hearty welcome to Leicester. Those who were present at that gathering would remember he expatiated on the merits of this good old town of Leicester; in fact, he had such confidence in speaking in glowing terms that he feared they would come to the conclusion that his testimony was not altogether from an impartial source. He had extreme pleasure, as the head for the time being of that great municipality, to extend to them a very cordial welcome to their town. Leicester was always pleased to show hospitality to any good cause, and the heartiness of his welcome on the present occasion was not simply because they represented an important and highly successful undertaking, but because they had such a magnificent record—a record of which the movement had every right to feel proud. He ventured to say Leicester should provide for them the right kind of atmosphere. He was a great believer in atmosphere; it had no little to do with the success of a gathering such as theirs. Leicester was nothing if it was not broad, tolerant, and democratic. He believed the soil of Leicester had been found to be very fertile to their movement from its earliest days, and he knew many highly-respected citizens had laboured incessantly to promote its prosperity. Their movement, like all movements, especially if they were successful, had its detractors. That was the penalty of success, but it did not deter them from going forward, or from showing that great satisfaction in the success which had been achieved, especially if the object was to promote the general welfare of the community. No one would doubt that the co-operative movement had been eminently successful. They could count their membership and their capital by the million, and they had the good fortune even to speak of their profits in millions. It had not been his good fortune to share in those benefits, still he knew the root principle of their movement was altruistic; therefore he rejoiced with them in their success. The question of labour and capital—the relation of capital to labour—was a very knotty one, but

the co-operative movement had shown what could be accomplished by combined action on the part of working men. As units the capital might be small, but in the aggregate its power might be for good. The movement, too, had shown, especially to those who were charged with the task of guiding and controlling its affairs, the weight of responsibility imposed in its successful application. He believed that was wholesome in itself. There were many working men who sometimes in their misguided moments assumed that those who had the control and responsibility of large commercial undertakings had an exceedingly soft job, but who, when they came to realise and experience for themselves the very heavy responsibility which attached to those who had control of capital and the management of large numbers of men, were disillusioned and came to the conclusion that all was not gold that glittered. He again expressed the pleasure he felt in giving them a very cordial welcome to Leicester, and he trusted they would have a happy time during their stay in the town. He also hoped their gatherings would be in the highest and truest sense successful, and that pleasant memories of their visit to Leicester would linger with them for many days to come.

Mr. R. FLEMING, on behalf of the delegates, acknowledged what he called the "kindly, gracious, and magnanimous welcome" his Worship had extended. He noticed, from the reference made by the Mayor at the luncheon on Saturday, that his Worship felt that he was a citizen of no mean city, and those who had been looking round the town would agree that his Worship held that sentiment in no spirit of vanity, but with a pardonable and justifiable pride. They had seen the well laid out and well kept streets, the well appointed public buildings, the efficient and cheap tram service, the public parks; and one thing that impressed him was the superabundance of voluntary organisations, benevolent, philanthropic, educational, and religious. It was no mere conventional courtesy or platform platitude to say that the municipal and voluntary activities of the town of Leicester entitled it to be spoken of in the superlative degree. He believed it would be the sentiment of every delegate that what they saw in the town was a distinct credit to the Mayor as Chief Magistrate and to his colleagues of the Town Council. They felt, as co-operators, a direct interest in municipal activities, with which co-operation was in direct sympathy; for a corporation might be described as a co-operation of citizens associated together to conduct business for the welfare of the community. They could therefore claim the Mayor as a delegate that morning, he being the president and representative of the Leicester Municipal Co-operative Association. Mr Fleming, before sitting down, presented his Worship with souvenir copies of "Industrial Co-operation" and the Wholesale Societies' Annual. He believed his Worship would read that volume with interest and attention, and would continue to take a kindly interest in the movement which did so much for the welfare of the people. The volume, he added, was presented as a token of goodwill from the co-operators of Great Britain, on whose behalf he expressed best wishes for the long life and good health of the Mayor.

The MAYOR, after having been cordially greeted again, said he felt embarrassed at the extreme kindness of the chairman and the delegates. He appreciated the honour done him, and he would fulfil the chairman's wish that he might read those volumes ; and as he became more acquainted with the details of the organisation, he might find that it had even more to commend it than he had yet realised. He should have been delighted to have exercised the rights of a delegate, but he had another function at 10 o'clock. He had to meet, not the Good Shepherd, but Ancient Shepherds. Some little surprise had been expressed because the co-operative organisation should have received such recognition as he had felt it his duty to extend by that welcome and by some degree of hospitality to be shown on the Wednesday evening. He hoped to meet every one of the delegates on that occasion, and that their good fellowship would be as cordial then as it had been up till now. He did not know why there should have been any doubt as to his duty on that occasion. He could not conceive of any surprise on that account except from people who were narrow in their ideas regarding a movement calculated to transform the lives of working men and to produce such a sight as one saw there that morning. It could only very considerably increase their national asset to have such a body of men in a world big enough and wide enough for the activities of everyone. Their varied efforts could only be for the good of the nation, and he had no hesitation, looking to them all as friends, in expressing the great pleasure it had been to him to be present and to have so many opportunities of making, to a fuller extent, the acquaintance of the delegates, and of extending the good feeling that existed between them and him at the present.

MR. FLEMING OPENS CONGRESS.

Mr. FLEMING, in opening the proceedings of the Congress, said those who were present at last Congress in Dublin, who remembered the closing scenes when they were separating, the grip of brotherhood when going forth with hope and confidence to the work of the ensuing year, could not but contrast the circumstances then with the gloomy and tragic situation in which they met that day. None of them could have believed it possible that in those intervening months so many chapters of brutality and perfidy would be added to the pages of human history. The English language was bankrupt of words to express the sense of indignation and shame caused by the situation. They felt that the principle for which they as a movement stood, disguise it as they might, had had a distinct reverse. All that they had held dear in present day civilisation had gone into the crucible of reaction ; the furnace was raging at a white heat, and what the aftermath would be no human imagination could picture. When the war was over—they trusted it might be soon—a great opportunity would be presented to the movement ; for a new civilisation would have to be built up on the ruins of the old ; mankind would require, and we could supply, a living and practical idealism. They did not despair. They believed that the principles

for which they stood—justice, truth, and brotherhood—were living and eternal, and that they would emerge from this reaction more purified and more powerful than ever to lead mankind to desert for ever the doctrines of brutal and abhorrent militarism.

Mr. Fleming, in introducing the new president, said Mr. Bastard had been associated with co-operation in the town of Leicester and the midland district for over thirty years. That was his thirty-second Congress in succession, and a gentleman with a record such as that was well justified in having the highest honour that the movement could confer upon its members. He had pleasure, then, in calling upon Mr. Bastard to assume the chair.

TRIBUTE TO MR. J. SHILLITO.

Mr. G. BASTARD (Leicester) then took the presidential chair, and said that he felt that he must move a resolution which should take first place in the Congress, and it was a resolution with regard to the late Mr. John Shillito. It was as follows :—

That this Congress desires to record its deep sense of the great loss which has been sustained by the movement generally, and by the Co-operative Wholesale Society particularly, through the death of Mr. John Shillito. In him, the movement has lost one whose unselfish devotion to duty, whose single-mindedness of purpose, and whose honesty of character and method, have rendered it almost impossible to replace. His memory will ever be honoured and cherished, and we trust that the work to which he so cheerfully gave the best energies of his active life may be still carried on more and more successfully by those who may come after him.

Without being formally seconded, the resolution was accepted, and the delegates rose in their seats in acknowledgment of their reverence for the late leader.

GRETN A RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Mr. BASTARD then said they would remember that last Saturday there was a terrible railway accident near Gretna, in which it was said about 180 men were killed and something like 300 injured. They were exceedingly sorry for that, and the Standing Orders Committee felt they would like to ask Congress to pass a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the men killed and injured. Might he ask them once again to rise in their seats.

The delegates responded, after which Mr. BASTARD announced that since they had met that morning they had received news of the death of one of their colleagues, Mr. Duncan M'Culloch (of Glasgow), who was a member of the Scottish Sectional Board.

Proceeding, Mr. BASTARD said he never felt that men like himself could receive a reception at their hands. Still, he was there, and he would try and bear it. He would give the delegates a hearty welcome to Leicester; they had had a hearty welcome from the Mayor, and now from the Reception

Committee through him. He hoped their stay in Leicester would be pleasant, and certainly profitable; they were in a beautiful hall and amid charming surroundings; he himself had never been in such a beautiful hall with such a lovely setting. He only hoped that none of them would be tempted to go outside when they ought to be inside. The Life Guards' band would be playing in the park from 3 to 5 o'clock; he would like to hear it himself, but he hoped they would all adhere to their Congress duties. Leicester was favoured with the Congress thirty-eight years ago, in 1877, when it was the custom to have a chairman each day, and the names that came before his mind were those of the Hon. Auberon Herbert and Mr. Lloyd Jones—ah! the time he had heard him as a child—and also their dear friend Mr. Abraham Greenwood, who had passed to the majority. He understood that there were only two men now in Leicester co-operative circles who were present at that gathering, one being Mr. John Butcher, who had recently met with an accident, and the other was a Mr. Adams. However, Leicester, was a great co-operative centre; there were three branches of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and he believed that their shoe factory, when built in the town, was then the largest factory of its kind in the world, and, perhaps with the exception of a mill in America, is still the largest. Leicester had also seven productive societies, where the principle of co-partnership was adopted; men and women worked side by side in these workshops, and obtained the full results of their labour. Then there was the distributive society, with about 24,000 members. There was also a garden city at Humberstone, which the delegates would be invited to see.

It was a disappointment not to have their friends from the Continent. It was the first time for years that they would not be able to have an international session; but, on account of the war, it was impossible for them to be at Congress. They could only hope when the war was over that they would be able to meet their friends from abroad, and also help those who might have suffered in France and Belgium. However, he hoped the Congress at Leicester would be a very successful one, and that they would all go away with happy recollections of the event. He had to introduce to them an old and dear friend of his, Mr. Douse, to deliver the inaugural address. He and Mr. Douse had been colleagues for over 25 years. Mr. Douse was a gentleman of great natural ability, who was well known on the platform and in the press; he was a fluent speaker, who had a good fund of common-sense; he was also an elocutionist, from whom they hoped to hear an excellent address.

On rising to deliver his address, Mr. DOUSE, who was received with loud applause, made reference to the remarks of the president. Mr. Bastard (said Mr. Douse) should have been a portrait painter, because most people liked their portraits embellished, and he had put it on rather thick in regard to himself.

Mr. DOUSE then read his address, which was as follows:—

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS, by Mr. W. J. DOUSE.

I dare not hope that in so large a gathering as this but that many of you have had your hearts lacerated by the terrible and solemn fact of the death of loved ones, whose lives have been sacrificed in the heroic defence of human right and justice; or it may be they have been wounded and will carry to their graves the evidence of the fiendish ferocity of the Kaiser and his murderous Huns. Friends, be comforted. The loved ones have heroically suffered martyrdom and are now wearing the martyr's crown. We represent some 3,000,000 of Britain's most loyal subjects, and are convinced that our Government was bound in honour to take up arms when the modern Attila tore into shreds the parchment he had signed to assure for ever the inalienable rights of brave little Belgium. We hate war, but our hatred of treason, chicanery, and blasphemy, yes, and the cold, callous, calculating murder of men, women, and children, incites the solemn declaration that it would have been moral cowardice on our part, and brand us as a nation with infamy, if we did not make every needed sacrifice with our Allies to crush once and for ever the monstrous attempt of Germany to enslave the world. Attila has recklessly departed from all the canons of civilised warfare, and his methods of terrorising would put to the blush the most bloodthirsty cannibal. History will immortalise the verdict of the jury of a few weeks ago in regard to the loathsome tragedy of the "Lusitania," when it was placed on record that it was a case of a murder against the Kaiser and his military clique, and I make bold to say here and now that the drowned victims of his lust for power and world dominance, with the use of death-dealing gases and poisoned water springs, find their apt delineation in the play of "Hamlet," who says—

" Murder, most foul, as in the best it is;
But this most foul, strange, and unnatural."

Well may Robbie Burns pathetically sing in his dirge—

" Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn."

I leave this painful subject, but duty demands that our sacred cause should declare its detestation of the foul deeds done under

the name of German "Kultur," and that we express our solemn conviction that God is seated on the throne of inexorable justice and that ere long the victory for national honour, freedom, progress, and altruism will be won, assured that—

The Kaiser's heart will feel the avenging rod;
"Vengeance is mine. I will repay," saith God.

Turn we now to the consideration of the weighty matters, both economic, social—yes—and ethical, that bring us together this Whitweek. The United Board did me the honour of requesting me to write and read the inaugural address this morning. This proves that the gentlemen had no small faith in my poor self, and that 40 years' active service in our glorious cause had won their confidence and esteem. I was sensible of the delicacy and magnitude of the task. I remember all so well the magnificent addresses of past years that thrilled us with their cogency, grasp, pathos, beauty, and diction, and I wondered if or not I should gratefully decline the proffered honour and let the duty pass to some more able and persuasive advocate. Among my long catalogue of failings methinks I can claim to be free from any taint of cowardice, hence I resolved to bespeak your most gracious patience and goodwill, while I have the right to use a little of your precious time. One of our best poets has written—

"The greatest study of mankind is man."

It is a tall order for an ordinary man. It is to cover all man's relationships in life. It comprises "himself"; his health of mind, body, and soul; his home, his work, his leisure; his duties to his town, city, nation, empire, and world. All these are comprised in the works of Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, Herbert Spencer, and others. The latter is a profound thinker and reasoner, and many of we ordinary workers have not the time or special training to grip all the niceties and subtleties of such complex matters.

One of the fundamentals of man's existence on this planet is work. It is a sacred word. By the fiat of the Architect of our being it has been decreed that man must work to live. If an able-bodied man will not work neither ought he to eat. True, the race always has a small admixture of lazy men in all classes of

society, but, as Carlyle pithily says, "This world has no room for lazy people, they should go 'otherwhere.'" But ever since populations grew on continents there has ever been, and is now, a battle royal as to the fair and honest division of the joint results of labour and capital in all kinds of commercial enterprise. For ages the workers were slaves; could be bought and sold as other goods and chattels. Some owners were humane, many were inhuman brutes. Let us recall the fact that even our immediate ancestors were slave owners. In our West Indian colonies we held them. Parliament was asked, year after year, to endow them with freedom. At last a Bill was passed so to do, but it also enacted that £20,000,000 of public money should be earmarked to compensate the slave owners. Well might a poet pen the burning lines on such infamy and sing—

"Pay ransom to the owner,
Fill the cup up to the brim;
The slave himself is owner,
And always was, pay him."

It is crassly strange that while we were crying out for the freedom of the slaves in Jamaica there was a worse system of wage slavery in so-called Christian England. Steam and the steam-engine built up our huge factory system, and I pray you note the mighty change in less than a century in the nation's conception of the rights of labour. To-day we are at life and death grips in war. Prices of commodities have gone up. To meet the lessened value of the sovereign wages have properly gone up, and to this is added, in most cases, a war bonus. Do we wonder, brethren, how we shall get 'it withdrawn when the war is over? When the Rochdale Pioneers pined, yearned, and prayed for human betterment the condition of labour was infamous in England. All commodities were dear. Bread touched 12d. a 4lb. loaf, and poor stuff it was; sugar was 9d. a lb.; tea was 6s. 6d. per lb. Wages averaged 13s. a week for skilled and unskilled labour, and men worked 90 hours a week under the most dehumanising conditions. The truck system was legal and in full swing, and children from the tender age of six and upwards worked in the factories. So also did they in coal mines with married and single women, until Richard Oastler and Lord Ashley roused the country and got the

ten hours Bill through Parliament, bringing the women and children from the coal pits for ever. To crown the infamy, Boards of Guardians sold the juvenile paupers to wealthy factory owners to work in the silk and cotton mills. Co-operation at this time found a few practical and faithful advocates; they conceived a method of upliftment and ennoblement by self-help under a pure voluntarism: They neither cringed to Parliament or to capitalism. They had illimitable faith in the new economic thesis, and in a pure, natural, and unselfish co-operation they found the new evangel of their ideals and aspirations. The struggle for breathing room for the young infant was bitter and long, but the cause had the hall-mark of divinity stamped upon it, and in a little over half-a-century it has presented an object lesson to the world that has no parallel or equal.

The traders at first laughed at the Toad Lane Store, predicting that the poor weavers would soon lose their life's savings, but it succeeded and a profit was made. Then they complained that the weavers had no right to open a grocer's shop and enter into competition with them. The store flourished, and other centres of industry soon founded societies, and the competition of the stores incited a determination to strangle the cause by the use of the boycott. This puerile method of persecution set co-operators thinking, and from the anvil of their simple thinking they struck the bright sparks of prudent progress; hence arose the conception of going to the wholesale markets through the ægis of one big buyer armed with plenty of ready cash, thus buying at first hand and distributing to the stores. The inane boycott was the parent of the mighty Co-operative Wholesale Society. Its history reads like some fairy tale. It was the wholesale department of the distributive societies; it bought for them all and sold alone to them. Its first year's trade in 1865 was £120,000; in 1875 it had grown to £2,250,000; in 1885 it was £4,700,000; in 1895 it was £10,000,000; in 1905 it was £20,000,000; and in 1914 it reached the mammoth total of £35,000,000. Truly, it may be said, we think and talk in millions, and are collective multi-millionaires. The Co-operative Wholesale Society has made a total profit of £9,000,000, which has gone back to the distributive stores

to finally augment the comforts of the 2,272,000 consumers who actually comprise the Co-operative Wholesale Society. So also its twin sister, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. In 1870 it did a business of £105,000. Its growth has been phenomenal, for up to last year its business reached the stupendous figures of some £9,425,000. The Wholesale Societies have in paid-up shares some £2,500,000, with loans and deposits amounting to £7,823,000. Their absolute security is unimpeachable, with reserve funds, after a most generous depreciation, amounting to £2,673,000.

I could exhaust all my time in noting even the most abbreviated development of the Wholesales. Words are but impotent vehicles with which to convey its scope and magnitude. It has long passed from the prosaic duties of buying and distributing, and has crossed into the borderland of production. Making haste slowly it has registered a mighty and priceless success. It has built, owns, and controls some of the finest factories, depôts, and creameries in the world, equipped with the very best machinery, managed by the most capable experts in the respective industries, with thousands of skilled employés receiving full standard wages, with hours generally below their competitors, and under the very highest sanitary and ethical conditions. May I not add that if all the employés are even as they should be—loyal members of a distributive store, they get their equitable share of the profits on all the goods they make. We, *i.e.*, you and I, have our purchasing and forwarding depôts in New York (United States), Rouen (France), Montreal (Canada), Denia (Spain), Copenhagen (Denmark), Gothenburg (Sweden), Colombo (Ceylon), Freetown (West Africa), and Wynaad (Southern India). We own the gardens to grow our own tea, which is admitted the best procurable at the sale price, and our $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. or 1 lb. packet teas are honest weight of 4oz. or 16oz. without the wrapper. This absolutely demonstrates that we, ordinary workers, are capable of electing from our own ranks men who are endowed with business acumen and foresight, and who, in turn, are charged with the duty of securing first-class men of experience, skill, integrity, and organising ability to successfully compete with the best-managed private firms or companies in this

country and others. Let me give an illustration in proof of my declaration *re* wages, hours, and conditions. I take, say, Crumpsall Biscuit, Cakes, and Sweet Works. Goods of the very highest quality are made at Crumpsall, under the most hygienic conditions. Everything is done for the large staff of happy employés that can be done for their health, comfort, and rational amusement after business hours. All this is done, and with honest pride we can put it on record that our biscuit bakery long-ago determined to meet the ever-increasing demands of its specialities and delicacies by a 48 hours per week, *i.e.*, eight hours' work a day, and I have not yet heard of any of our keen competitors having the pluck and generosity to follow the Wholesale Society's ethical example. This reminds me of an old distich coined by a good trade union leader 45 years ago as his ideal:—"Eight hours work, eight hours play, eight hours sleep, and eight bob a day," and when all trade-unionists are loyal store members, and *vice-versa*, it will be to the immortal honour of the ever-enriching, expanding, and inspiring genius of the young co-operative giant, to secure for labour a reward for faithful work, with lessened hours, so that his health may be at the best and his spare time spent in his garden, the free library, the picture house, the concert hall, or the home of best dramatic art. This for the married man with his loved ones will evoke sobriety, intellectuality, and domestic felicity, which would make a co-operative commonwealth an antepast of heaven.

Here, and now, lest I forget, let me mention a Co-operative Wholesale Society department that touches the apex of commercial enterprise, *viz.*, banking. If a Rochdale pioneer could revisit the glimpses of the moon and pass the swing doors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Bank in Balloon Street he would be speechless till the ever courteous and modest manager gave him a smile and took him round the institution. Banking requires the finest business aptitudes. Absolute truth, integrity, courtesy, prudence, and zeal are ceaselessly and noiselessly active in a bank, and in no bank more so than our own. Yes, let me repeat it, "our very own bank." Mr. Ludlow, on Good Friday, 1870, said at Bury, "Shall we not buy and sell our own money for our own benefit as we do

other goods?" The reply is "Yes." Last year our bank turned over £186,000,000, an increase of £16,000,000 on the previous year. Its funds now exceed £7,000,000, and it has advanced to societies for house building over £500,000. Over 1,000 societies bank, as they should do, at their own bank, while nearly 200 societies are still wondering why they fail to enjoy its advantages. Trade union funds with the Co-operative Wholesale Society are well over £400,000, and some 65 trade unions have Current and Deposit accounts with the bank. These figures are stupendous, yet are manipulated with ease at Balloon Street. Well might Lord Rosebery say in 1890, at Glasgow, "That co-operation was a state within a state." He was gifted with the prophetic instinct, and our banking department affords full justification for his prudent declaration.

But the innate passion of fully fledged co-operation incited many a brave coterie of men to seek through the avenue of self-employment an honourable means of betterment. They dreamed of a happy blend of capital and labour; that master and man should be so happily wedded as to become one. If all happy and successful marriages are registered in heaven, as we are told they are, then our co-operative brethren, who shrewdly and wisely invented and caused to materialise the happy word copartnership, can fairly claim to be of heavenly descent. Men like the loving and loveable G. Newall, whose characteristics were purity, modesty, honesty, and an ever luminous faith in God and goodness, determined to test their ideal for labour emancipation. Their plan was profoundly simple. They sought a new outlet for their faculties, and to make a clean cut distinction between private ownership of factory, machinery, and wage-paid workers, and a factory owned and worked by themselves, in the which the profit should be divided between the worker and the ultimate purchaser and consumer from the store. Of course, I need not say they paid, and pay interest upon capital, grant sums to education propaganda, and do not forget the duty of a reserve fund. This method of productive co-operation has been signally successful, and not a few private firms have made good use of its moral incentives, and the principles enwrappt with copartnership have come to stay and

to become one of the ever-expanding wings of a broad comprehensive collectivism.

These dreamers of day dreams are the salt of communal life. Many of them are but hypnotic wishes, without the practical sinew, bone, and blood of real experience, and they must bide a wee. But this dream of labour salvation, and a regenerated manhood, has living and novel potentialities within its folds that link its destiny with eternity. Time will not admit of my doing justice to the ethical and economic value of copartnership; its scope and fruitfulness are collated for you in your Congress Report, as also are those of the twin and beneficent Wholesales, and, better still, the splendid exposition of co-operative productions that meet wondering gaze at the exhibition bear eloquent testimony to the skill, judgment, taste, design, texture, beauty, patience, honesty, and industry of the noble brotherhood of unbeatable craftsmen who have made and displayed such splendid specimens of eatable, drinkable, wearable, usable, and smokeable collection of goods that challenge comparison with the best in the commercial world. It goes without saying that our cause shows healthy progress from centre to circumference. Some 1,380 societies had a turnover of £84,000,000 last year, with a profit of some £13,000,000, the average dividend being 2s. 4½d. for England and Wales, 1s. 3½d. for Ireland, and 3s. 1½d. for Scotland. We need a Burns or Tannahill to sing of "divi," so sweet, so tasty, and so moorish, as is enjoyed in Bonnie Scotland. Well may our friend Mr. Maxwell put in a plea for the fusion of forces, and some of us are wondering if all Scottish societies have risen to the bait, and if the *entente cordiale* is in evidence across the border with all sections of the Labour Party.

The societies are fast outgrowing the swaddling clothes of ordinary shopkeeping and many are becoming veritable hives of prudent industry. Of Leicester I need not say one word. Its glorious past and present are with you. You can feast your eyes and mind upon its splendid achievements and developments. All honour to progressive Leicester. I should have been delighted to draw a word picture of progressive Derby and its wondrous and multifarious work, but my time and your patience whispers,

"Hurry up!" Even so of Lincoln, Birmingham, Woolwich, Leeds, Nottingham, Mansfield, Grantham, Peterborough, Kettering, Gainsborough, and other glorious examples of fidelity to the living germs of progress. And not only is unstinted praise due to the large societies, but many of the small ones are equally alert in pointing the way to the common ideal of a co-operative commonwealth. Let us note one of the many plague spots of our modern industrialism, viz., the blind alley employment, or the ill-fated *cul de sac*. Thousands of bright, pushful, deserving youths and maidens find a blight in their career at 18 or 19 years of age; they are turned adrift when it is extremely difficult to find useful employment with promise of advancement and the learning of a trade. Hope gets a fatal stab, and all too many sink under the heartrending infliction and become casual labourers or something worse. Our managers must always make it clear when engaging youths for errands, &c., that they cannot guarantee continuity of employment, with increasing stipends, after a certain age, so that parents realise the position and must themselves accept the responsibility. I earnestly plead for the sympathetic attention to this very serious matter, and am glad it is having the thought and constant regard of a band of noble reformers led by so earnest a devotee of children's health and prospects as Lord Henry Bentinck, whose strenuous labours were set forth in an illuminating article in the incomparable co-operative *Millgate Monthly*.

Dare I venture to skate on the thin ice of dividends. My weight might let me through the ice to the cold waters of the carping, or hyper-critics, who regard all as suspect who hint at a reduction of their inflated ideas as to the amount and moral value of a big, high-sounding dividend of 2s. 9d., 3s., or even 3s. 6d. in the £, but this shall not deter me. How can we get in the poor while we are forced to raise by a fraction the cost of the commodities these poor unfortunates are forced to pay? A shilling dividend would be an infinitely more ethical dividend in a poor neighbourhood than a 3s. 6d. one. Brethren, ponder this well. Good, sound, trustable co-operators will be satisfied, aye, and gratified, with 1s. 6d., 1s. 9d., or 2s. in

the £, and I leave the matter with the declaration that in my poor judgment a 10 per cent return on all purchases is an extremely generous one, and those societies that keep inflexibly loyal at 1s. 4d., 1s. 6d., 1s. 8d., or 1s. 10d. are worthy of unstinted commendation.

Then, for a moment, let us see if or not we are justified in a subdued grumble or growl because the Press do not grant much space to our doings. The Press need the living substance of dividends. They are not charitable institutions. Prudence certainly suggests that we judiciously advertise. Editors or managers of the life-sustaining Press will give us a good *quid pro quo* for what we expend with them.

A word to the wise. This day will, I dare believe, result in mutual fructification. Overlapping is an evil that still obtains, and no one can gauge its direful effects. It is one of the most fateful forms of undignified and microbic competition. A remedy must be found. The Co-operative Union must have power to send an official, with a member or two of the Sectional Board, to make an impartial inquiry on the spot, and the decision must and will be accepted by the societies that desire the honour and progress of the cause, rather than a mere selfish wish to maintain a position that runs counter to all the sublime canons of altruistic progress. The world may ask, has the movement a soul? Is it, after all, anything more than one other method of money making? Is it not purely economic and materialistic? For myself I reply a thousand times "No." We reach in the moral world the highest ethical attitude; we have an infallible standard of moral obligations. The 5,000 year old Decalogue yield a standard to test every motive and act within and without the movement. The ten imperious commands given to Moses must ever illumine and guide us in any doubtful or perplexing problem. We must not steal. Covetousness is divinely and properly condemned. Duty to God and man must be the alpha and omega of our faith and practice. Yet one more command completes the code; it is the beautifully simple and sublime axiom of the Nazarene—To love one another. These must absolutely enrich and impregnate our multitudinous transactions. Conscience must preside over our commercial destiny. It must

thrill and throb from brain to heart and thus keep pure what the late Mr. Mitchell called "the body politic."

We have had, and ever shall have, splendid work from the Women's Guilds. The rift in the lute of the past year was unfortunate. The grand Old Book says, "Come now and let us reason together," and this done without passion or pique will soon be considered good enough for both parties, and the lion and the lamb can soon be living in an atmosphere of reciprocal concord.

We must, I trow, avoid confusion by the suggested fusion of forces. An infusion by inoculation or vaccination is not needed for our health sustenance or development. We have a record that is absolutely unique. Yes, we have a safe ladder that reaches from the gutter of human despair to the seventh heaven of complete labour emancipation. All sections of the Labour movement can enter the ever open door of co-operation and preserve also their special aims, objects, and methods of securing what, in their judgment, is needed to do full justice to Labour.

Then, I should be open to the serious charge of non-appreciation of brain food if I omitted our own organ, the *Co-operative News*. Its weekly sale should reach 250,000 copies, which it richly deserves. It is always giving information stimulating and entertaining, hence I beg you all to do yourselves the pleasure of securing its broader circulation.

What can one say, or not say, of the *Millgate Monthly*. It is one of the best in the whole realm of sterling literature. It is luminous in thought, lucid in exposition, and brilliant in illustrations. It yields a dignity to our movement that silently makes for culture and refinement. So also *The Circle* has no end to its attractions for our dear young folks.

Lastly, our private trading friends are trotting out the old bogey that we escape taxation. What sorry piffle and undiluted stupidity. We pay all legal rates and taxes, and 98 per cent of us have not, never have had, incomes to bring us in the subtle net of the income tax. We wish we had; we deserve it, but got it not. The odd 2 per cent do not escape it. Then we are dubbed selfish. This is the acme of unpardonable falsehood. The good we get by loyalty and devotion we desire to be similarly enjoyed by all who

desire betterment. We fondly invite every toiler to come within the fold and will welcome the advent of all seekers for social salvation.

Quite a number of societies go direct to mother earth and engage in farming. As a profit making department it is risky, seeing that climatic conditions quite often settle the point of profit or loss. We own thousands of acres of land with all farming appurtenances; some of it is leased, some of it is purchased, hence we are to be classed as landowners, but be it known we never prate of confiscation, but own the fee simply by purchase.

I must draw to a close lest your patience be exhausted. The past year will disclose a thrilling chapter of incidents between the Government and the Co-operative Wholesale Society. In the hour of dire national need the Wholesale has proved of mighty service. Then, quite a number of societies have been requisitioned to supply bread and foodstuffs for thousands of Lord Kitchener's voluntary army, and have won unstinted thanks and praise. Further, the societies have risen to the highest altitude of altruism by refusing, like many traders, to exploit the workers by making excessive profits, but by selling to members the goods as near as possible at former prices. The price of our bread has kept the price down at least 2d. a stone to all consumers, and it is no wonder that the war is impelling thousands of workers to take refuge in the societies, because they are learning that fair prices are charged and that the net profit after the charges are met will actually come back to them. Let us give all a cordial welcome, with a copy of the *News*, to awaken a keener interest and assure a deeper loyalty. Let us fondly hope that in our humanised movement we shall have no threats of strife or strikes. Mutualism and generous treatment of all employés should keep our sacred cause in harmony with all trade unions. Our golden and imperishable motto is—"Do ye to others as ye would they should do to you." We have no quarrel with the honest traders. We seek that Labour, even the poorest paid, shall move with the better paid to a happier future; that Labour shall be dignified as the prime element in all forms of productive enterprise; that gaunt, dumb despair shall no longer be the heritage of the worker. Our past is illumined by good

cheer and magnificent achievements. It bids us to go forward with ample faith that Right and Brotherhood will shape the near destiny of a peaceful and regenerated society. Co-operation is written as a fundamental in sociology by God and nature. It seeks the harm of none, but puts into ceaseless and loving operation the code of written and unwritten laws, that conscience accords a divine sanction. Go ye, sisters and brothers, from this Congress with a soulful pledge of deeper devotion and sanctified zeal. Ye are the custodians of a purified commercialism which is destined to kill the causes of wars between men and nations, and enthrone in the hearts of all rulers and subjects the imperishable trinity of profoundly simple sentences: "Glory to God, on Earth Peace, Goodwill among Men."

So may you live that, when the sun
Of your existence sinks in night,
Memorials sweet of duties done
May shrine your names in memory's light;
And the blest seeds you've scattered bloom
A thousand fold in days to come.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. W. H. BRYANT (Western Sectional Board) said it was with real pleasure that he rose to ask the delegates to place on formal record their thanks to Mr. Douse for the address to which they had just listened. Most of them had been able to give uninterrupted attention to it; unfortunately, he had not, owing to a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee. From what he had heard, however, he could say that Mr. Douse had shown all those glowing qualities which their respected chairman (Mr. Bastard) had foretold. He had given them the advantage of his extensive vocabulary and fluency of speech. It had been the custom in years past to invite eminent personages from outside their own ranks to deliver addresses; but of late years they had felt that the practical wisdom and the development that had taken place in the movement had fully justified the departure from that procedure, and they could now have inspiring addresses, such as the one delivered by Mr. Douse. He had touched on many points and many things he wanted settled. He had also shown them the way he wanted them to go. They all felt indebted to him for the letters he had written to the press—co-operative and otherwise—and they knew the great services he had rendered to the movement as a whole. Therefore, they should tender him their thanks, because they looked upon him as a warm-hearted Englishman, inspired by one idea, who associated himself with everything that tended to uplift mankind. He was sure he would have no difficulty in

carrying the delegates with him in thanking Mr. Douse, and putting on record their approval of his remarks.

Mr. T. E. SHOTTON (Co-operative Wholesale Society), in the unavoidable absence of the president of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, said his colleagues had deputed him to second the resolution of thanks to his very old friend, Mr. Douse, and to present to him a specially bound copy of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Annual. It had been a real pleasure to hear the address full of facts that gave them encouragement in these times of stress and turmoil. It was scarcely possible to predict what might be the outcome of the co-operative movement in the present serious position; but they knew that every man and woman was prepared to do his or her duty. They wished Mr. Douse long life and happiness, that he might long be spared to promote their glorious ideals of brotherhood and co-operation, so that the movement might succeed beyond their utmost expectations. They were doing splendidly. Let them keep together in one family and strive for the emancipation of labour and the betterment of men and women.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) supported the resolution. It was unnecessary for him to enlarge upon the qualities and efficiency with which Mr. Douse had acquitted himself. He presented, on behalf of the Co-operative Union, a bound copy of "Industrial Co-operation," and of the "Co-operators' Year Book" on behalf of the Co-operative Productive Federation. They were marks of the esteem and appreciation of Mr. Douse by the co-operative movement. He had worked in the Co-operative Union for a number of years, and had always shown himself imbued with determination, originality, and force which was sometimes irresistible.

The CHAIRMAN said they had all heard the resolution moved, seconded, and supported, and he would now put it to the meeting. All in favour say "Aye," to which a hearty response came from every part of the hall.

Mr. DOUSE was loudly applauded on rising to respond to the vote of thanks. He said it was extremely kind of his friends to have made such presentations. True he had already read them, and, he trusted, had profited by them. He had one practical suggestion to make. They ought to urge the Co-operative Wholesale Society to take into early consideration the advisability of the erection and equipment of a margarine factory.

MESSAGES FROM ABROAD

The GENERAL SECRETARY drew attention to the standing orders in regard to sending in amendments, and then read letters of regret for non-representation at that Congress from co-operative institutions on the Continent.

The first message, which was in the form of a telegram, came from the co-operators of Russia, and was to the following effect:—"Overloaded by the daily work, we are very sorry being unable to send by a representative best wishes to the forty-seventh Congress of great British co-operation. Together with you, we are sure of definite victory of principles of humanity and brotherhood over barbarity and cruelty.—Moscow Co-operative Union."

The GENERAL SECRETARY then read a letter from the co-operators of Holland; it was as follows:—"Each member of the board would be glad to be again amongst our British brethren, the fathers of our movement, but during the war every one likes most to be at home. We hope the British Congress will be a success."

The next letter to be read was from the co-operators of Norway, who regretted that, "on account of the present circumstances," they were unable to send any representative to the Congress at Leicester. "The only thing we can do" (the letter proceeded) "is therefore to express our best wishes for your Congress as well as for the British co-operation."

The co-operators of Switzerland wrote that "it is impossible for us to attend your Congress, as the difficulties of provisioning in Switzerland, resulting from the European war, do not permit us so long an absence."

Proceeding, the GENERAL SECRETARY said they had received two letters from France. The first letter, which was from the Wholesale Society, was as follows:—

"At a time when England and France are united in another field for the defence of civilisation, we should have liked to attend your Leicester Congress on 22nd May. The connection between English and French co-operators before this war was as between good friends and good neighbours. We sought together in a peaceful way the means to brighten the lives of the working classes grouped in our organisations. To-day, still united, English and French are compelled to defend civilisation, threatened by peoples slaves to the will of their Governments, and who, intoxicated with arrogance by a pernicious education, aim at forcing others under the domination of their masters. We hope that the day may come when these backward peoples will summon up the will to free themselves from this humiliating domination. In this crisis the relations of good friendship and good neighbourliness have become an intimate and lasting alliance, which will impose just peace on Europe, enabling our economic institutions to attain their fullest development. We should like nothing better than to express to you verbally the deep feeling of friendship we have for English co-operators, but with us the general mobilisation of the forces of the country deprives us for a time of the majority of our directors and managers. Those remaining cannot leave, being still subject to mobilisation and absolutely necessary for the progress of our co-operative movement, so tried by the German invasion. Under the circumstances, we express our profound regrets, and beg you to excuse us."

The second letter from France was from the Co-operative Union, and the writer, who was an old friend of theirs, in the person of M. Daudé Bancel, expressed regret that the co-operators of France were not able to be personally represented at the Congress at Leicester, and in their name forwarded "An Address for English Co-operators." The letter also stated that there were only a "few directors or secretaries not yet with the colours." The address was as follows:—

"It is now many years since French co-operators made it their duty to attend your Congresses; for the *entente cordiale* between English and French co-operators was far in advance of that of the diplomatists. To-day, more than at any other time, they would have been glad to be among you, since it is especially in days of sorrow and affliction that the members of a family feel the need of meeting together. Unfortunately, owing to the present circumstances, we are unable to send a delegate to your Congress, but at least we wish to send you a message of sympathy.

"You know already that our co-operative societies have suffered severely from the war in the same way that our sister societies in Belgium and Serbia have done. The most odious characteristic of this war, and one which will dishonour it in history, is the suffering and ruin inflicted on innocent persons and inoffensive populations. On sea, as well as on land, they have suffered almost as much as the combatants, and our co-operative societies in general have not been spared. Some of them, however, have been protected by officers or soldiers who were doubtless members of co-operative societies, and who affixed the following notice outside the stores:—'Do not take anything; there are only worthy people here.' Unfortunately, such cases are exceptional. Throughout the north-east of France, in which part of the country co-operation was the most flourishing, the majority of the societies have been ruined. They have either been pillaged, bombarded and set on fire, or their supplies have been requisitioned by the invading army. About 647 societies, with a membership of 237,000, have suffered in this way. Among them must be mentioned (although it is not a distributive but a productive society) the famous 'Familistère' of Guise, which has been partly destroyed by fire, and which is at present being made use of by the German military authorities for the manufacture of shells, a fate which was certainly not foreseen by its generous founder, Godin.

"As for the losses of the societies, it is at present impossible to estimate them, as the large majority are still in the hands of the invading army, and it is not known what they will leave us, especially when the time comes for them to retreat. However, the losses that we actually know of amount to several hundred thousand francs.

"Such a great disaster has at least one compensation—it has afforded a magnificent opportunity of demonstrating our national and international solidarity. The French Government has undertaken to repair some of the damage done, and we know that English co-operators wish to participate in this work of relief by sending help to the co-operative societies in France, as they did two years ago by advancing a considerable sum to facilitate the operations of our Wholesale Society. Your societies, which have the good fortune to be sheltered from invasion, which in spite of vain threats they will never suffer, have wished to help their little sisters on the Continent, which owing to their geographical position are 'at the front.' We thank you, not only for that help, but for all your soldiers who have come to fight

on our soil, and many of whom are members or employés of your co-operative societies. You can rest assured that, although on the borders of the Elbe and the Rhine millions of men and women are sending up the daily prayer that God will crush England on the soil of France, the country of Joan of Arc, millions pray daily that God will bless England.

"Nevertheless, in spite of national and international solidarity, it is certain that the damage done to our co-operative societies cannot be altogether repaired, and it is to be feared that many will not recover from their wounds. Thus the co-operative movement, not only in France, but also in Belgium and perhaps in other countries, will pass through a terrible crisis. It will not be simply a material crisis, but a moral crisis, which will perhaps be still more difficult to heal. The co-operative movement throughout the world was linked to the socialist and pacifist movements, which are so directly and profoundly affected by the present war. Even after the war is over, and when the powers of destruction have been exhausted, there will remain in the souls of hundreds of thousands of men who took part in the war, conquerors and conquered, an accumulation of intense hatred. The blood of so many dead and so many innocents will long cry for vengeance. In the midst of this evil harvest, what will become of the principles of benevolence and fraternity which co-operators endeavoured to sow throughout the world? Will they not be choked by thorns like the good seed in the parable? But no! Hatred between nations is not eternal. The hatred left by the present war will not be so either, in spite of the atrocities uselessly and prodigally committed, if the victors, when they impose terms of peace, are wise enough to establish a peace in accordance with justice—a peace which can one day be ratified by the vanquished. It will be the task of good co-operators, after having fought valiantly for their country unto the end, to do all in their power in order that victory may not become simply the consecration of the rights of the strongest, but the establishment of a *Co-operative Europe*, in which each State, small or great, will work for all and be protected by all; in which no country will cherish the ferocious ideal of being 'over all'; in which there will be no annexed nations, but only free peoples."

The address was signed by M. Ch. Gide and M. A. Daudé-Bancel, on behalf of the Fédération Nationale, and by M. L. Lucas and M. Ed. Marty on behalf of the Magasin de Gros.

The PRESIDENT: We all regret that there is to be no international session, and we are all intensely interested in the messages from the friends abroad. We can only hope that the day is not far distant when there will be peace among the nations, and when their work will begin again in a most enthusiastic manner. We have, however, delegates present representing other friendly organisations. Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., is the representative of the Trades Union Congress, and I am sure you will extend to him a hearty reception.

TRADE-UNIONISM AND CO-OPERATION.

Mr. C. W. BOWERMAN, on rising, was warmly acclaimed.

Before Mr. Bowerman had addressed the Congress, an Irish delegate rose to "a point of order." He protested that it was impossible to hear at his end of the hall. His protest was endorsed by others at a distance from the platform, and, continuing, he said: "For two hours we have not heard a word. What are you going to do about it?"

The PRESIDENT suggested that there was nothing for it but for the delegates to keep quiet when the speeches were being delivered.

Mr. BOWERMAN: For the few minutes I propose to detain you I shall endeavour to make myself heard. Continuing, he said he had to congratulate the delegates on the fact that, unlike some other representative bodies—the Trades Union Congress for one—there had been no break in the continuity of the Co-operative Congress. They were devoutly to be congratulated upon that fact. He was there to convey the fraternal greetings and good wishes of a body doing not quite similar work to the co-operative body, but doing work very close indeed in some respects to the work of the co-operative movement, and representing, like the co-operative movement, nearly three million people—men and women. If the Trades Union Congress had met last September, there would have been 550 delegates present, representing 2,780,000; and he ventured to say that when the Congress came to be held in Bristol in September of this year, the membership would be as big as that of the co-operative movement. So many trade-unionist principles and aspirations had been enunciated from that platform that morning that he felt he could devote his few minutes to speaking about the co-operative movement. The Mayor had said that standing alone meant feeble effort, but standing united meant powerful for effort. That was good trade union principle. When he heard their good friend, Mr. Douse, enunciating what was a startling principle from some points of view—not from the trade-unionists' point of view—"eight hours' work, eight hours' soon realise that "eight bob a day."

He wished to acknowledge, so far as he was able, the service which that magnificent movement rendered to the trade-unionists of the country only a few months ago. In September of 1913, when an unfortunate and distressing dispute broke out in Dublin, the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress decided to make a departure from the ordinary method of assisting trade-unionists in dispute. They came to the conclusion that the proper thing to do was not to send money but to send food. Naturally, when that decision was arrived at, they turned their eyes in the direction of Balloon Street, and a telegram was sent to the effect that at ten o'clock the following morning four members of the Parliamentary Committee would wait on the Wholesale. Messrs. J. A. Seddon, H. Gosling, and Ogden accompanied him, and they had the advantage of meeting one of the shrewdest business men—a man of the greatest business ability in the movement—and he presumed to say that with all respect to others. They met

Mr. Brodrick. They told him their mission, and, without a moment's hesitation, he entered into the spirit of the decision arrived at by the Parliamentary Committee. They told him they wanted the co-operative movement to send £5,000 worth of provisions to Dublin in the quickest possible time. Mr. Brodrick, like a business man, put one pertinent question. The Parliamentary Committee had not £5,000, and they could not have raised it immediately; and Mr. Brodrick asked: What about the security? The reply given was that the security was the movement behind the deputation. There happened to be a dispute in Manchester at that time. Vessels were tied up; but, to show the power and influence of the wonderful co-operative organisation, he wanted to tell the Congress that the deputation met the directors at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and before 2-30 or 3 o'clock that afternoon the directors had managed to get the dock labourers to agree to unload certain vessels that they might be loaded with the productions of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. On the Friday evening or Saturday morning the Wholesale vessel, with £5,000 worth of provisions, proudly sailed unto Dublin Harbour and pulled up at the North Wall. That vessel, with the captain and crew, met with a reception that no other vessel entering that harbour ever met with. The committee raised something like £93,000, and of that amount, he was glad to say, about £63,000 had passed through the hands of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The financial side of the question was of least importance; but, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee and of the Trades Union Congress itself, he wished to bear testimony to the manner in which Mr. Brodrick and the directors took up that task, and to the spirit of the men, of the staff, who took off their coats and worked thirty continuous hours, some of them, to get that shipload of food ready within the allotted time. Any board of directors would have been delighted with the manner in which that staff worked on that occasion.

It was a real pleasure to be able to say what he had said in that connection, and he asked the chairman and the secretary to convey to the board and staff appreciation of their work at that time.

There was a subject that had been discussed for some time in the movement—it was called the fusion of forces. He did not intend to speak particularly on that subject, but, he said, he had been speaking of the co-operation between the directors and staff of the Wholesale and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress. Recalling what had been done for the trade-unionists and for Dublin, he could say: If that is the sort of fusion of forces that is to come about in the near future, there was no man or woman who would disagree with him when he said good luck to a fusion of that kind. Finally, he wished to say, with reference to the awful shadow of the war, that when the war was over, the working people of this country and of all other countries would be faced with problems. They might not be able to realise these problems at present; but they would come along. Whatever shape these problems might take; however heavily

they might bear upon the shoulders of the people : so long as there was the friendly feeling that now existed between the trade union and co-operative movements—and there never was a more delightful feeling between these two great movements—both parties would be able to face the future, dark as it might appear, with confidence. The co-operative movement might have opportunities of doing that which had been so well expressed—making people's lives brighter and happier—and no movement was in a better position to do that than the movement which had met in Leicester that morning to transact its business with increased strength and resolution

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

Mr. C. W. CROOK presented to Congress the greetings of the National Union of Teachers. He said it was not till Friday night that he knew he was coming to Congress. He had been waiting for his colleague all morning, who was to come from Birmingham, and who on arrival had found that he had left his speech at home. Mr. Crook said that his own early environment brought him in direct conflict with the co-operative movement ; he was the stepson of a grocer who had a shop in Barrow-in-Furness between 1870 and 1880. During the period of his teacher apprenticeship, he spent his time partly in school and partly in the grocer's shop. He thought the movement began in Barrow in about 1875. People then talked about dividend, which caused his stepfather, the grocer, to use another word which commenced with "d," and he often used the two words together. He (Mr. Crook) had now come to form a strong admiration for the co-operative movement ; and they knew there were many of his profession helping to bring the movement to greater success than it had yet attained. They had on the Educational Committee, for instance, Miss Madams. Every speech he had heard that day confirmed him in his opinion that, whilst they were co-operators in a material sense, they had also, beyond that, a deep, firm idea that co-operation was more than materialism : they realised they must have an ideal accompanying it. All co-operation was founded on true principles of justice and morality, which would continue to lift the people to greater heights. There was no fear for the co-operative movement. They had all, as citizens, sent sons to the war, and all had parted with comrades and friends ; they had all contributed to funds in connection with the war. But the co-operative movement had been able to do far more than that ; it had been a strong factor in keeping down the exploitation of the poor in the matter of food. Had it not been for the resources and reserves of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, bread would have been dearer than it had been. Perhaps they, as teachers, were brought more closely in touch with the children than co-operative societies were. Co-operators brought their children to the teachers at an early stage of life to train them in the ideals of citizenship, discipline, self-denial, and self-sacrifice. Co-operators' children with teachers' children went to the war ; but perhaps, in that

respect, teachers came closer to a greater number of children. Every morning almost he saw entering his school some young fellow, proud of his uniform, physically fit, with the ardour of patriotism in his eyes that was never there before; he had come to say "good-bye" to his teacher before going to the front. The teachers also received letters from their boys who were undergoing the hardships of the trenches. Week by week they received letters from proud boys who had obtained promotion for merit in the war; week by week they had received letters from those who had now given the greatest of sacrifices—themselves! They shared with the delegates, not only as parents but as teachers, in bearing testimony to the magnificent work done by their boys, and also by their girls as nurses at the front. He wanted both teachers and co-operators to take a broad, general view of the advancement of the people, and bear in mind that

"Naught shall make us rue,
If England to itself do rest but true."

GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE.

The PRESIDENT regretted that their old friend, Mr. W. Maxwell, could not be with them this year. It almost seemed no Congress without him, they had had him with them so long. In his absence, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., would convey the greetings of the International Co-operative Alliance.

Mr. WILLIAMS was received with applause. He echoed the words of the President in regard to Mr. Maxwell. Their friend and revered leader was not well enough to be with them. He echoed the Chairman's words more particularly as he believed this was the jubilee of Mr. Maxwell's entrance into the co-operative movement. He had been asked, therefore, by his colleagues to say a few words on behalf of the Alliance, for which Mr. H. J. May (the secretary) and he were delegates. He would not say much, because the matter was fully set out in the report of the Central Board, and in the paper he had been asked to read, on "The Future Policy of Co-operation: National and International," he would have an opportunity of giving them his views.

In the Central Board Report they would find what the Alliance had been doing, in spite of the difficulties put in the way of every form of international work by this terrible war. They had received distressing reports of the damage done to co-operative societies in Belgium and the north-east of France. In Belgium there was a splendid working-class co-operative movement—not worked exactly on the same lines as theirs, but in all the great essentials one with them—which had done much for the uplifting of the people of Belgium. They also knew that in that part of France which had been overrun by the war lay the chief of the co-operative societies of France. In proportion to the area, the most important part of France, co-operatively, was that which was now in the occupation of hostile

armies, and there, too, the loss had been very great—not to be measured by thousands, but by scores of thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of pounds. The International Alliance was asked if the English co-operators could not do something to alleviate the loss and distress that had been caused. The executive committee of the Alliance thought that appeal should not be issued in their name, but should be passed on to the Co-operative Union. This had been done, and he appealed to the delegates to see that there was a generous response, because the need was very great. It was not only in Belgium and France that co-operation had suffered. In Serbia, the co-operative societies, which were largely agricultural societies, had suffered far worse than those in France and Belgium. In many cases they seemed to have been wiped out almost entirely. The population had suffered also by death and disease to an extent which it would be horrible to describe to them. The Alliance had been able to be of assistance in sending out help to the co-operative societies of Serbia. But it was not only to the people of the countries which were our allies it had been able to do some little good in relieving suffering. In this country there were many Austrian and German subjects. Many of them were Englishwomen, who, through marrying Austrian or German subjects, themselves had become Austrian or German subjects. The Society of Friends in London, which had been so prominent in relief work, set to work, with the help of the British Government, to relieve the distress of these people, and he was proud to say that the International Alliance had been able to do something also, and many co-operative societies had sent subscriptions. He wished to point out how one good work led to another. When it became known what had been done in relieving these unfortunate people in this country, there arose in Berlin a movement to relieve British and allied peoples who were stranded in Germany. At the end of the war there would be a far greater work to do. Co-operative societies had suffered terribly already. Probably there would be far more suffering before the end of the war, and there would be loss, not measured by tens of thousands, but by hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions, that would have to be made good. They must all try and do their little in regard to this matter. He hoped the Alliance would be able to issue an appeal to help co-operative societies which had suffered most. There would be still greater work for the Alliance to do. They were in this war, and meant to see it victoriously to the end by any sacrifice they as Englishmen and Englishwomen could make. But their patriotism meant love of their fellow-citizens, and that principle led to the internationalism which had always been a feature of the co-operative movement. A Frenchman, who was now fighting, said to him, "Keep the International Alliance apart. Do not let it commit itself, because, when the war is over, it will be the best hope of bringing together the democracies of Europe." In conclusion, Mr. Williams said: "We are going through a dark hour, but, however dark the hour, we must keep our faces to the point where we hope the sun will rise again some day."

CENTRAL BOARD ELECTIONS.

Mr. T. HORROCKS (assistant secretary) read out the results of the elections to the Central Board for the present Congress year, as follows :—

IRISH EXECUTIVE.

Elected : H. M. Barbour, 30 ; R. Fleming, 27 ; W. G. Kane, 26 ; J. Palmer, 26 ; H. Archer, 25 ; W. Gray, 23 ; W. J. McGuffin, 21.

Unsuccessful : L. P. Byrne, 11 ; D. C. O'Leary, 7 ; F. Leetch, 4 ; J. Ward, 2.

MIDLAND SECTION.

Elected : J. Millington, 198 ; G. Bastard, 194 ; W. Millerchip, 193 ; F. Rankin, 183 ; W. J. Douse, 180 ; C. A. W. Saxton, 167 ; J. Langley, 158 ; J. Butcher, 155 ; G. Harris, 139 ; S. Butler, 128 ; J. G. Shacklock, 128.

Unsuccessful : A. Mann, 101 ; H. Baynes, 79 ; Mrs. M. E. Cottrell, 51 ; A. H. Jones, 49 ; J. Clay, 39 ; C. W. Brown, 30 ; Rev. T. S. Hudson, 24 ; W. Abbotts, 23 ; H. Clark, 19 ; G. Sanders, 18 ; A. Wyld, 17 ; R. G. Manning, 12 ; J. Clewlow, 11 ; A. Fullwood, 10 ; F. H. Brumpton, 9 ; F. Weekly, 9 ; H. Sanders, 7 ; E. Hilton, 6 ; I. Evans, 5 ; T. O. Unwin, 5 ; E. Stradling, 4 ; W. T. Cadmore, 2 ; J. Grantham, 0. Two spoiled papers.

NORTHERN SECTION.

District No. 1, North Northumberland.—Elected : J. Davison (unopposed).

District No. 2, South Northumberland.—Elected : J. C. Aiston, 30. Unsuccessful : J. Wight, 20 ; D. Long, 5.

District No. 3, Cumberland and Westmorland.—Elected : J. Murdoch, 30. Unsuccessful : J. Nixon, 7. One spoiled paper.

District No. 4, West Durham and South Northumberland.—Elected : W. Scott (unopposed).

District No. 5, East Durham.—Elected : W. R. Rae, 67 ; Unsuccessful : J. Longman, 12.

District No. 6, South Durham.—Elected : S. Galbraith, 41 ; J. Bell, 7. One spoiled paper.

District No. 7, South Durham and North Riding.—Elected : G. Bedford (unopposed).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

District Candidates.

Airedale District.—Elected : S. R. Foster (unopposed).

Bolton District.—Elected : S. Fairbrother (unopposed).

Calderdale District.—Elected : J. Greenwood, 36. Unsuccessful : J. Black, 17.

Cheshire and North Wales.—Elected : S. C. Hughes, 68. Unsuccessful : E. Evans, 17.

Dewsbury.—Elected : J. Staynes (unopposed).

East Yorkshire.—Elected : G. Goodenough, 42. Unsuccessful : J. Nicholson, 4.

Huddersfield.—Elected : E. Booth (unopposed).

Macclesfield and Crewe.—Elected : F. Hayward, 26. Unsuccessful : E. Derbyshire, 24 ; G. Travis, 14.

Manchester.—Elected : J. Pollitt, 95. Unsuccessful : F. S. Knowles, 38. One spoiled paper.

North-East Lancashire.—Elected : W. Dewhurst (unopposed).

North Lancashire.—Elected : W. - Gregory, 44. Unsuccessful : J. Parr, 16.

North Lonsdale.—Elected : W. Swindlehurst (unopposed).

Oldham.—Elected : H. Stuttard (unopposed).

Rochdale.—Elected : B. Woolfenden (unopposed).

Rossendale.—Elected : J. W. Hargreaves (unopposed).

South Yorkshire.—Elected : G. Major, 87. Unsuccessful : A. J. Wroe, 44 ; J. Penny, 1.

Sectional Candidates.

Elected : T. Redfearn, 854 ; J. Johnston, 772 ; J. Morrell, 712 ; J. Thompson, 684.

Unsuccessful : G. Briggs, 304 ; J. Sharples, 258 ; J. O. Paynter, 213 ; J. Dimberline, 145 ; T. Manning, 127 ; R. Hargreaves, 118 ; J. W. Bradley, 88.

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Elected : J. Deans, 304 ; G. Bisset, 276 ; J. Allan, 257 ; A. Purdie, 246 ; J. Patterson, 235 ; J. Lucas, 226 ; D. McCulloch, 210 ; G. Wilson, 199 ; J. Lochhead, 197 ; J. M. Wilkie, 193.

Unsuccessful : P. Loney, 114 ; W. McGhie, 80 ; A. M. Welsh, 78 ; A. Roxburgh, 71 ; J. C. Kelly, 64 ; G. D. Taylor, 58 ; W. Anderson, 54 ; R. Stewart, 37 ; J. F. Greig, 30 ; J. Dunley, 28 ; J. Munro, 21 ; G. Young, 20 ; M. Sempie, 17 ; J. Waterhouse, 7. Three spoiled papers.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Elected : A. Hainsworth, 338 ; W. T. Charter, 311 ; W. H. Brown, 295 ; M. H. Clear, 286 ; S. Foulger, 263 ; W. J. Salmon, 256 ; Mrs. M. A. Gasson, 245 ; R. Rowsell, 245 ; E. King, 112.

Unsuccessful : T. S. Reeve, 78 ; R. Hibberd, 76 ; J. Maton, 76 ; J. H. Bate, 62 ; C. E. Taylor, 58½ ; W. J. Foster, 44 ; W. H. Barton, 36 ; W. J. Spicer, 24 ; H. C. Kille, 20 ; E. Ruddock, 17 ; H. Colpus, 15 ; G. T. Monson, 10 ; G. W. Ramsden, 5 ; D. W. Cooper, sen., 3 ; G. J. Hiron, 3 ; W. H. Tyzack, 3 ; J. G. Webster, 2.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Elected : R. G. Naish, 96 ; H. Westbury, 76 ; R. Andrews, 67 ; W. H. Watkins, 63 ; R. Pearce, 62.

Unsuccessful : J. T. Davis, 45 ; E. R. S. Mundy, 34 ; W. J. Jose, 11 ; Capt. W. Jopleng, 10 ; J. R. Toms, 8.

WESTERN SECTION.

Elected : D. Evans (Tredegar), 72 ; R. R. Chappell, 65 ; E. R. Wood, 58 ; J. R. Davies, 56 ; W. H. Bryant, 51 ; D. Williams, 47.

Unsuccessful : A. E. Price, 32 ; T. R. Pembro, 28 ; R. J. Wilson, 20 ; D. Evans (Ebbw Vale), 12 ; T. R. Williams, 12 ; C. R. Protheroe, 10 ; H. Watkins, 10 ; S. Jones, 8 ; R. Popham, 8 ; G. H. Clement, 7 ; C. J. Thomas, 7 ; W. Lewis, 5 ; D. J. Lewis, 3 ; T. W. Bailey, 2 ; J. L. Powell, 2.

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of the voting for members of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union for the Congress Year, 1915-1916.

18th May, 1915.

T. WOOD, Scrutineer.

FIRST DAY OF CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The delegates having reassembled for the afternoon session,

Mr. A. TAYLOR (Co-operative Printing Society) moved the following resolution, which had been sent in and accepted by the Congress Standing Orders Committee in accordance with Rule 23, 11 (e) :—

That this Congress expresses its abhorrence at the carnage of war now being enacted throughout Europe. It puts on record its sense of indignation at the crime committed against Belgium, and the disregard of the dictates of humanity by the German Government. It declares that no peace will be satisfactory, or can be permanent, which does not secure at least, first, the evacuation of Belgian territory by the invader ; and, second, the future freedom of Europe from the menace of militarism. It also expresses a hope that provision may be made as speedily as possible for the setting up of an international tribunal to enforce the public law of nations and uphold the rights of small peoples.

He said if they had framed the resolution later than was actually the case they would have made it much more drastic than it now appeared. At that time they did not believe, or were loath to believe, some of the deeds that had been perpetrated by the enemy ; but the report of the Bryce Commission proved that things had been done that humanity would not tolerate. No one could but feel the utmost commiseration for the nation

that was wedged between two big powers. They all owed a debt of gratitude to Belgium, that prevented the over-running of France by their magnificent stand in the early days of the war. Anyone who had been in Belgium knew what a happy land it had been. They were assured that the concert of Europe had established their independence. They had suffered some of the most terrible outrages at the hands of a so-called civilised nation that the world had ever known. The diffusion of gasses in the trenches, and the sinking of ships carrying passengers that were not connected with the war, and seeing them sink and die without making any effort to save life, were intolerable. Their own record as the greatest naval power was clean; they had saved 4,058 people after sinking their warships. They had the menace of militarism, and that was the greatest danger that could afflict the earth. If militarism was to govern the world in the future—and it would if Germany succeeded—it was good-bye to democracy. He was no pessimist with regard to the war. There was an over-riding Providence that would guide those things to a successful issue. They talked about the brotherhood of man; it had not come yet, and would not be realised in his day or in that of a great number of those present. There was a good deal of the old Adam left. Still, he hoped to live and to see a brighter Europe than they had had before.

Mr. A. C. BURN (West London) seconded the resolution, and referred to the war as the most cruel that had taken place in all time. He had never thought a war of that kind would come about. It would bring commercial disaster, and it seemed as though no nation would take the responsibility of disorganising the trade and commerce of the world. But they had to face the difficulty. They were fighting now for small nations; for the sacred rights of international law, and for upholding the weak against the strong. This was a war for the salvation of the German people as well as for the workers of Europe. After the war they would have to fight for economic freedom and liberty. It was for them, as workers, to be very careful and to watch closely the events that followed the war. History told them clearly that the workers were the first to suffer from war and the last to recover from it. The middle classes and the governing classes always won the gains accruing from war; they had always taken the advantage and saddled the workers with the cost of war. Therefore it was necessary that they, the workers, should concentrate their efforts upon the Government of their time to see that the cost was put upon those capable of bearing the burden.

The CHAIRMAN: This resolution has to be put without any discussion. It is also proposed, if you pass it, to send a copy to the Prime Minister. Are you in favour of the resolution? Loud cries of "Aye" came from all parts of the hall.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.

The Congress then proceeded to deal with the report of the Central Board.

Report of the Central Board.

THE MOVEMENT AND THE WAR.

The co-operative movement has played such an important part during the great national crisis that we may be pardoned for commencing our annual report to Congress with a brief reference to the influence which it has exercised in various directions since the outbreak of war.

In the first instance, we may justly claim that it had a steadying effect on the prices of commodities during the earlier period of the war, which fact was acknowledged by influential statesmen. This recognition of our movement gives rise to the thought that if the Government has realised the facilities obtainable through co-operation—as is evident by their placing orders with co-operative societies—whilst the country generally was working under such great disadvantages, what benefits can the movement not bring to the people in times of peace?

In the second place, societies have shown their loyalty and their appreciation of the needs of the people by assisting those in their employ who have joined the forces. Some have agreed to pay full wages during the war, and almost all have promised to reinstate them on their return; other societies have undertaken to pay full wages less the Army allowance; whilst in others the rates of payment have varied, but in almost every case an allowance is being made to dependants.

Societies have also responded handsomely to the numerous appeals which have been made on behalf of the various relief funds, and from information the Union has received we learn that upwards of £91,626 has been paid direct to the funds, whilst many grants in kind have been made, which means that a further sum of £6,758 must be added to the amount before stated.

The periods through which we have passed and are still passing are serious testing times, not only of institutions, but of individuals and movements, and only movements that are firmly rooted can stand the test. This

much may be said for the co-operative movement, that it has stood the test. But what of the future? Is the time not ripe for all engaged in the work to seriously consider how best to bring before the world at large the benefits that may accrue through combinations conducted on co-operative lines, seeking not only the welfare of the individual but the well-being of all.

The co-operative movement has done much that was expected of it, still much more might have been achieved in the direction of keeping down prices, &c. Now is the time for a more forward policy, with a view to bringing in those who up to the present have stood aloof, and to formulate a scheme for reaching the poorer classes.

The movement has now grown so large that the question of the supply of raw materials is of vital importance, and requires most careful consideration of co-operators generally, and especially those engaged in co-operative production, in order to free the movement from the clutches of the monopolists. We have up to the present been compelled to seek our supplies from outside. This crisis has opened our eyes, and will, no doubt, cause us all to think seriously on this great problem. A movement appears to be making headway for energetic and prompt action in the direction of obtaining the raw materials direct from their sources. This can only be done by every co-operator doing his or her share, that is by purchasing commodities whose co-operative origin is certain, and insisting on their being obtainable in all co-operative establishments.

It was thought advisable to collect information in order to form some idea as to what the movement has done in certain directions during the war. A circular was therefore issued to all societies and we are pleased to say that the officials of societies have responded fairly well to our application.

From the nature of the replies received we find a difficulty in the tabulation of all the particulars, but give below a general summary:—

9,407 Employés of societies have joined the forces.

273 Societies are paying part wages during their absence.

44 " " full wages, less Government allowance.

2,248 Horses have been commandeered.

291 Vehicles (horse and motor) have been commandeered.

£91,626 have been granted to the various funds up to 31st December, 1914.

£6,758 is the estimated value of Grants of food and clothing.

In many instances societies have been called upon to undertake work for the Government, either in supplying bread, milk, or foodstuffs for troops, or in the manufacture of clothing, which may be estimated at £219,822 (exclusive of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies). In other cases, societies have granted the use of their halls free or at a very nominal charge.

These particulars, we think, will enable our members to see that co-operation is with credit playing its part in the great national crisis.

1. INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1913.

The following particulars relating to industrial co-operative societies in the United Kingdom are taken from the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette*. These are the latest available official figures, and, although for the year 1913, may be found interesting as showing the growth during the last ten years, and being given in a different form than those compiled by the Union:—

DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

At the end of 1913 there were at work in the United Kingdom 1,521 industrial co-operative distributive and productive societies, with an aggregate membership of 2,919,348; a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £60,825,785; a total trade (distributive and productive) of £153,712,970;* and a total profit, before payment of interest on share capital, of £14,207,554. The total number of persons directly employed by the societies was 141,394,* and the total amount of wages paid during the year £8,277,481.* This is a decrease on 1912 of nine societies, but an increase of 128,638 in membership, £4,412,374 in capital, £8,556,910 in sales, and £973,353 in profit. While some of the societies are engaged only in distribution, and some only in production, others are engaged in both distributive and productive operations. In the following statistics, however, distribution and production are dealt with separately:—

DISTRIBUTION.

At the end of 1913 there were at work 1,382 retail and two wholesale industrial societies engaged in distribution. These societies had an aggregate membership of 2,880,319; a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £54,754,082,†; and sales amounting to £123,943,053; and a profit on distribution, before payment of interest on share capital, of £13,721,871†; while the total number of persons directly employed in distribution by these societies was 81,865, and the total wages paid £4,788,106.

* The figures are exclusive of the number and wages of persons employed in agriculture by Industrial Distributive Societies, and of the sales and transfers of agricultural produce of these societies.

† The figures include the capital used in the productive departments of Retail Societies, and the profit upon the productions of these societies, the amounts not being available separately. The capital used in the productive departments of the Wholesale Societies (£3,742,202) and the profit (£229,991) are not included.

In the following Table the sales for each of the years 1904-13 are shown separately for the retail and for the wholesale industrial societies:—

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
		£	£	£
1904	1,454	59,311,885	19,809,196	6,801,272
1905	1,452	61,086,991	20,785,469	6,939,738
1906	1,441	63,353,772	22,510,035	7,140,183
1907	1,432	68,109,376	24,786,568	7,603,460
1908	1,418	69,785,798	24,902,842	7,531,126
1909	1,430	70,423,359	25,675,938	7,457,136
1910	1,421	71,861,383	26,567,833	7,738,159
1911	1,403	74,812,469	27,892,990	7,851,080
1912	1,392	78,878,658	29,732,154	8,391,258
1913	1,382	83,607,043	31,371,976	8,964,034

Of the total profit of £13,721,871†, a sum of £12,852,013 was made by the retail societies and £869,858 by the two wholesale societies.

In the case of the retail societies, the greater part of the profit was distributed to the members as dividend upon purchases, at an average rate in the £1 of 2s. 4½d. in England and Wales, 3s. 1¾d. in Scotland, and 1s. 3½d. in Ireland; the average for the United Kingdom being 2s. 5¾d. Non-members usually receive dividends at one-half these rates.

The English and Scottish Wholesale Societies paid a dividend to members upon purchases of 4d. and 8d. in the £1 respectively.

In addition to the above societies, there were also at work in 1913 (in Ireland) one Home Industries Society, with 46 members, a capital of £12, sales of £104, and £2 of profit; and one co-operative cab society (in England), with 25 members, a capital of £273, a trade of £1,190, and profit of £113.

Profit Sharing with Employés.—Of the total 1,382 retail societies, 176, employing 14,324 persons, and paying wages amounting to £797,243 in their distributive departments, allotted a total of £35,148 out of their profits to their employés as a bonus on wages, this being equal to about 4·4 per cent upon the wages paid.

The Scottish Wholesale Society, with 2,598 distributive employés, and paying wages amounting to £161,916, allotted £5,399 as bonus on wages, this being equal to 3·3 per cent.

PRODUCTION.

In 1913 there were 1,126 industrial co-operative societies of various types engaged in production, consisting of 989 retail and two wholesale distributive societies, having productive departments, and of 135 associations for production only, consisting of five corn-milling societies, 37 bread-making and other consumers' societies, and 93 associations of workers. The total number of persons employed in production by these societies was

59,509, the amount of wages paid during the year being £3,489,285, and the value of productions £29,768,623.

In the following Table the sales of each group of societies, together with the totals for all the societies, are shown for each of the years 1904-13 :—

Sales and Transfers of Productions.*

Year.	Associations of Consumers.				Associa- tions of Workers.	Grand Total of all Societies.
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.		Productive Societies.			
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn- milling Societies.	Baking and other Societies.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	5,958,099	5,515,161	1,345,207	674,461	1,109,318	14,602,246
1905	6,268,110	5,854,355	1,378,328	689,546	1,105,166	15,295,505
1906	6,675,646	6,804,924	965,018	700,603	1,203,659	16,349,850
1907	8,277,974†	8,102,980	954,733	762,949	1,319,117	19,417,753
1908	11,085,095†	8,464,021	1,048,403	880,670	1,265,796	22,743,985
1909	12,034,137	8,993,922	1,111,563	906,823	1,246,879	24,293,324
1910	12,684,996	9,399,283	1,019,569	992,940	1,382,125	25,478,913
1911	12,731,608	9,615,748	1,024,331	1,020,801	1,440,357	25,832,845
1912	13,691,188	10,630,583	1,113,729	1,137,565	1,580,309	28,153,374
1913	14,550,246	11,211,882	1,003,579	1,270,579	1,732,337	29,768,623

* The goods produced by the distributive societies are not usually sold direct by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

† A considerable part of the increase in the value of the production by retail societies is due to a much larger number than formerly making returns of the slaughtering of cattle.

The total value of productions has increased since 1904 by no less than 103·9 per cent, the greatest increase (144·2 per cent) being shown by the productive departments of the retail distributive societies. The productive departments of the wholesale societies show an increase of 103·3 per cent, the baking and other consumers' societies an increase of 88·4 per cent, and the associations of workers one of 56·2 per cent. Corn-milling societies alone show a decrease (25·4 per cent), this being largely due to the fact that in 1906 two of the mills at work in 1904 were absorbed by the English Wholesale Society.

The following Table analyses by groups of industries the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid, and the amount of sales and transfers of productions in 1913 :—

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Em- ployés.	Wages paid during 1913.	Sales and Transfers of Produc- tions.*	No. of Em- ployés.	Wages paid during 1913.	Sales of Produc- tions.
		£	£		£	£
Food and Tobacco..	14,560	1,022,993	21,276,192	159	12,358	90,556
Clothing	23,758	1,194,443	3,374,188	3,963	196,182	784,424
Soap, Candles, and Starch..	1,352	74,752	1,141,996	..	..	..
Textiles	2,045	94,273	463,630	2,120	104,638	532,840
Building, Quarrying and Woodwork'g	4,805	418,369	1,059,836	322	23,678	54,110
Printing	2,095	114,569	340,899	1,059	74,588	199,113
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	658	46,148	164,015	491	25,556	58,139
Other Industries ..	2,031	82,377	215,530	91	5,361	13,155
Totals 1913 ..	51,304	3,047,924	28,036,286	8,205	442,361	1,732,337
Totals 1912 ..	43,770	2,830,188	26,573,065	7,921	410,444	1,580,309

A total profit of £485,568 was made upon industrial production by societies other than retail societies, the profit of the productive departments of the latter being merged in their general profit, and therefore not ascertainable.

Of this total, £229,991 was made by the wholesale societies, £17,584 by the corn mills, £136,713 by bread-making and other consumers' societies, and £101,280 by the associations of workers.

Profit Sharing with Employés.—Of the 1,126 societies engaged in industrial production, 149, employing 16,843 persons in production, with wages amounting to £948,481, allotted a sum of £48,272 to their employés in the productive departments as a bonus on wages, this being equal to about 5·1 per cent upon wages. Of the total amount, £8,855 was allotted by 103 retail distributive societies, £10,932 by the Scottish Wholesale Society, £12,054 by five consumers' productive societies, and £16,431 by 40 associations of workers.

Associations of Workers' Share of Employés in the Membership, Capital and Management.—Seventy-six of the associations of workers for production, with sales amounting to £1,550,876, or 89·5 per cent of the total sales of the 93 associations at work in 1913, made returns showing the extent to which their employés and others shared in the membership, capital, and management of the associations. The returns show that the total membership of the 76 associations was 20,094, of whom 4,365 or 21·7 per cent consisted of employés, 12,183 or 60·6 per cent of other individuals, and 3,546 or 17·7 per cent of other societies. Of 7,019 persons employed by the associations, 4,365 or 62·2 per cent were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £676,032 share and loan capital, £96,106 or 14·2 per cent belonged to employes, £242,101 or 35·8 per cent to other individual members, and £276,085 or 40·9 per cent to other societies. The remaining £61,740 or 9·1 per cent consisted of loans from non-members, including bank overdrafts.

The total number of directors or committee-men of the associations was 666, of whom 265 or 39·8 per cent were employes of the associations, 287 or 43·1 per cent were other individual members, and 114 or 17·1 per cent representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

2. GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

(See Appendix I., page 176.)

We have, as usual, been supplied by societies with statistics giving particulars of their position at the end of 1914, these are printed in detail at the end of the report.

The year has been an exceptional one, steady increases being reported up to the beginning of August, when war broke out, and since that time many societies have experienced an abnormal increase in sales, whilst in a few districts where local industries have been seriously affected the reverse has been the case. It should be borne in mind that the increase in the money value of trade during 1914 is to a certain extent accounted for by increased prices obtaining during the last five months of the year.

The totals of the figures are given below and compared with those of 1913:—

Year.	Total Number of Societies.	Number of Societies to which these Figures Relate.	Number of Members.	Shares. £	Trade. £	Profits. £
1913	1,508	1,501	3,011,390	41,119,373	130,035,894	14,260,414
1914	1,511	1,506	3,188,140	43,589,465	138,472,025	15,204,098
Increase....	3	—	176,750	2,470,092	8,437,131	943,684
Decrease....	—	—	—	—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF GENERAL RESULTS.

		Societies.	Members.	Shares. £	Trade. £	Profits. £
Wholesale Societies	1913 ..	2 ..	1,436 ..	2,504,688 ..	40,336,009 ..	1,098,213
"	1914 ..	2 ..	1,459 ..	2,607,969 ..	44,336,196 ..	1,371,430
Retail Societies	1913 ..	1,387 ..	2,878,648 ..	37,275,057 ..	83,615,175 ..	12,851,308
"	1914 ..	1,391 ..	3,054,297 ..	39,573,049 ..	87,964,229 ..	13,501,825
Productive Societies	1913 ..	108 ..	34,662 ..	930,676 ..	3,710,234 ..	253,014
"	1914 ..	108 ..	36,880 ..	987,613 ..	3,800,627 ..	276,792
Supply Associations	1913 ..	4 ..	95,061 ..	380,646 ..	2,078,661 ..	49,231
"	1914 ..	4 ..	95,117 ..	380,745 ..	2,030,245 ..	41,470
Special Societies ..	1913 ..	7 ..	583 ..	28,306 ..	295,815 ..	8,658
"	1914 ..	6 ..	387 ..	40,069 ..	341,728 ..	12,581

3. WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

	Society Members.	Shares. £	Loans. £	Sales. £	Interest on Capital. £	Profits £
1913.						
The English Wholesale.....	1,168 ..	2,039,055 ..	4,281,708 ..	31,371,976 ..	98,464 ..	734,583
The Scottish Wholesale	268 ..	465,633 ..	3,230,782 ..	8,964,033 ..	22,900 ..	363,630
	<u>1,436</u>	<u>2,504,688</u>	<u>7,512,490</u>	<u>40,336,009</u>	<u>121,364</u>	<u>1,098,213</u>
1914.						
The English Wholesale	1,193 ..	2,130,959 ..	4,170,058 ..	34,910,813 ..	104,867 ..	944,936
The Scottish Wholesale	266 ..	477,010 ..	3,653,160 ..	9,425,383 ..	23,527 ..	426,494
	<u>1,459</u>	<u>2,607,969</u>	<u>7,823,218</u>	<u>44,336,196</u>	<u>128,394</u>	<u>1,371,430</u>
		£	£	£	£	£
1913	1,436 ..	2,504,688 ..	7,512,490 ..	40,336,009 ..	121,364 ..	1,098,213
1914	1,459 ..	2,607,969 ..	7,823,218 ..	44,336,196 ..	128,394 ..	1,371,430
Increase ..	23 ..	103,281 ..	310,728 ..	4,000,187 ..	7,030 ..	273,217
Decrease ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—

4. DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

	Societies.	Members.	Shares. £	Loans. £	Sales. £	Profits. £
1913	1,387 ..	2,878,648 ..	37,275,057 ..	5,326,708 ..	83,615,175 ..	12,851,303
1914	1,391 ..	3,054,297 ..	39,573,049 ..	5,744,894 ..	87,964,229 ..	13,501,825
Increase	4 ..	175,649 ..	2,297,992 ..	418,186 ..	4,349,054 ..	650,522
Decrease ..	..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—

5. CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION.

The usual returns relating to the business of the Productive Societies, and the Productive Departments of the two Wholesale Societies will be found on reference to the statistical portion of the report. We submit a summary of the returns and also an analysis showing the various industries carried on.

(a) SUMMARISED STATEMENT.

	Number of Societies.	Number of Emp.yes.	Capital Employed.	Trade during Year.	Profit.	Loss.
			£	£	£	£
Ireland	1914	1 ..	..	..	..	..
England and Wales	1913	92	7904	1023346	2654954	125118
"	1914	91	7968	1077458	2713169	145083
Scotland	1913	16	2538	677687	1055280	127896
"	1914	16	2767	744891	1087458	128707
English Wholesale	1913	1	17991	2775486	7964272	181463
"	1914	1	19991	3116057	9109318	215151
Scottish Wholesale	1913	1	6087	863446	2681246	80688
"	1914	1	6134	924734	2507047	122475
Total	1913	110	34520	5839965	14355752	515165
"	1914	110	36850	5483140	15716992	614418
						12888
						2831

(b) SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIES.		1913.	1914.
		£	£
Cotton, Linen, Silk and Wool	{ England	635,455	.. 613,193
	{ Scotland	160,279	.. 160,843
	{ Wholesale Societies	985,468	.. 1,168,243
		1,781,202	.. 1,942,279
Boots, Shoes, and Leather ..	{ England	479,509	.. 550,744
	{ Wholesale Societies	936,056	.. 1,048,726
		1,415,565	1,599,470
Metal and Hardware	{ England	60,289	.. 43,700
	{ Wholesale Society	68,442	.. 69,762
		128,731	.. 113,462
Woodworking	{ England	35,791	.. 36,687
	{ Wholesale Societies	162,215	.. 169,512
		198,006	.. 206,199
Building and Quarrying	England	8,450	.. 22,928
Printing and Bookbinding ..	{ England	198,525	.. 169,129
	{ Scotland	20,365	.. 20,394
	{ Wholesale Societies	300,454	.. 327,200
		519,344	.. 516,723
Corn Milling	{ England	1,006,537	.. 1,033,088
	{ Wholesale Societies	4,552,064	.. 5,231,325
		5,558,601	.. 6,264,413
Baking	{ England	52,806	.. 55,743
	{ Scotland	852,512	.. 882,218
		905,318	.. 937,961
Laundries	{ England	56,139	.. 62,034
	{ Scotland	22,124	.. 24,003
		78,263	.. 86,037
Various	{ England	121,453	.. 125,923
	{ Wholesale Societies	3,640,819	.. 3,901,597
		3,762,272	.. 4,027,520
Total, 1913		14,355,752	
" 1914		15,716,992	
Increase		1,361,240	

6. FARMING BY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

(See Appendix II., page 179.)

(a) FARMING BY WHOLESALE OR DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

Section	ACREAGE.		Capital.	Rent.		Profit.	Loss.	Number of Societies.
	Owued.	Rented.		Interest	Rent where rented.			
			£	£	£	£	£	
Midland	4733½	2940½	100038	3745	3600	1570	2204	22
Northern	466	1289	34166	1243	2182	1417	234	14
North-Western ..	2077¼	715½	128740	3993	1476	3100	1304	25
Scottish	244	667	22104	1015	1432	3685	..	4
Southern	992	283½	48387	1857	436	984	1314	8
South-Western ..	261	175	24573	425	525	..	267	3
Western .....	..	166	350	15	114	53	..	1
Total	8773¾	6236½	358358	12293	9765	10809	5323	77

(b) FARMING SOCIETIES.

Section.	ACREAGE.		Capital.	Rent.		Profit.	Loss.	Number of Societies.
	Owued.	Rented.		Interest	Rent where rented.			
			£	£	£	£	£	
Southern	223½	1790	40	110	26	..	1
Western	570	..	..	396	519	..	1
Total	793½	1790	40	506	545	..	2

7. AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.**CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM—GENERAL SUMMARY.****ENGLAND AND WALES.**

On 31st December, 1914, there were 592 registered Co-operative Societies of an agricultural nature affiliated to the Agricultural Organisation Society. These societies may be classified as follows:—

Societies for the Supply of Requirements and Sale of Produce ..	232
Dairy, Bottled Milk and Cheesemaking Societies	34
Small Holdings and Allotments Societies	206
Agricultural Credit Societies	59
Egg and Poultry Societies	26
Miscellaneous Societies	35

The figures for the membership and turnover of these societies are only available to the end of 1913, when there were 478 societies in existence in England and Wales. During 1913 the turnover and number of members is shown as follows:—

	Purchase of requirements.	Egg and Poultry.	Dairy.	Small Holdings.	Miscellaneous.	Total
No. of Societies	188	34	33	191	32	478
No. of Members	21,330	2,886	3,348	14,117	3,859	45,540
Turnover....	£1,485,585	£64,760	£508,916	£5,536*	£78,678	£2,143,475

* This represents amount of actual sales by Small Holdings Societies, and does not take account of the land renting side of their business.

These societies are all registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

In addition, there were at the end of 1913, 53 Agricultural Credit Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act. The following particulars are given:—

Number of members	609
Loans Granted during the year	£1,193 0s. 0d.
Net Profit to end of 1913.....	£260 19s. 11d.

SMALL HOLDINGS SOCIETIES.

Some of the Small Holdings Societies exist for the purpose of providing their members with small holdings and allotments: others have the purchase of requirements and sale of their members' produce for their principal objects. Many, however, combine both objects in one society. Some rent their land from public authorities, others from private landlords, while some societies have land under both classes of landlords. It is estimated that the total amount of land held in this way is about 13,500 acres.

Agricultural Co-operative Societies may become affiliated to the A.O.S. by the payment of an annual affiliation fee of 2d. per member. This entitles them to many benefits. The societies have the whole of the knowledge and experience of the central society at their disposal. They are advised in matters of policy and helped with their books. In addition, the affiliated societies all over the country are brought in touch with one another, and during the last few years there has been a great increase in the amount of intertrading between the agricultural producing societies and the distributive stores in the towns.

IRELAND.

On 31st December, 1913, there were 985 co-operative societies in Ireland affiliated to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, having a membership of 104,702. Included in this total are 235 credit societies, having a membership of 20,211, which, like similar societies in Great Britain, are registered under the Friendly Societies Act. There are also included in this total 89 auxiliary

societies, which are linked up to some central society or creamery, but are not separately registered.

The total, therefore, of the co-operative societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act up to December, 1912, was 661. These societies may be classified as follows :—

Dairy Societies	341
Agricultural Societies (Purchase of Requirements)	193
Poultry Societies	18
Home Industries Societies	18
Miscellaneous (including Bacon Curing and Bee Keeping)....	27
Pig and Cattle Supply Societies	52
Flax Societies	10
Federations	2
Credit Societies	235
Auxiliary Societies	89
	<hr/> 985

The total membership and turnover may be summarised as follows :—

	Purchase of Require- ments.	Egg and Poultry.	Dairy.	Miscella- neous, &c.	Total.
Number of Societies....	193	18	341	109	661
„ Members ...	19,970	5,294	46,186	13,121	84,491
Turnover.....	176,301	48,336	2,524,621	576,775	3,326,033

The Irish and Scottish Agricultural Organisation Societies give the same assistance in the respective countries as the Agricultural Organisation Society in England and Wales with regard to the co-operative societies of an agricultural nature affiliated to them. The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was formed in 1894, the Agricultural Organisation Society (England and Wales) in 1901, and the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society in 1905.

SCOTLAND.

The number of agricultural co-operative societies affiliated to the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society on 31st December, 1914, was 135. This number was made up as follows :—

Supply of Requirements and Sale of Produce	52
Egg and Poultry	61
Stock Improvement Societies	8
Dairy Societies	11
Credit Society	1
Fishery Society	1
Beekeepers' Society	1

The returns for the membership and turnover for the year 1913 may be summarised as follows :—

	Purchase of Requirements.	Egg and Poultry.	Dairy.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
Number of Societies	36	59	11	8	114
„ Members	5,970	3,180	450	320	9,920
Turnover	£245,500	£41,500	£103,800	£600	£391,400

8. SMALL SAVINGS OR PENNY BANKS.

The following particulars have been obtained from the statistical returns sent in by the societies which have Penny Bank departments and a comparison with the figures for 1913 :—

Section.	No. of Societies. 1913.	No. of Societies. 1914.	Amount of Deposits. 1913. £	Amount of Deposit. 1914. £
Ireland	5	7	1,764	1,958
Midland	107	109	273,047	288,892
Northern	68	68	119,086	123,989
North-Western	260	260	926,299	886,721
Scottish.....	99	102	235,486	244,590
Southern	129	128	186,346	218,420
South-Western	50	49	59,362	63,452
Western	52	56	64,886	72,062
	770	779	£1,866,276	£1,900,084

9. CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.

The following is a comparison of the business of the Co-operative Insurance Society Limited—the Joint Insurance department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited—for the years 1912, 1913, and 1914, and a statement of its financial position at 31st December.

The expense of Collective Life Assurance, with the new scale of benefits now in force, is only 3 per cent on the premiums, and the divisible surplus will be allocated every five years amongst the policy holders in proportion to their respective contributions to that surplus. It is regrettable that some societies hold aloof from the joint security and mutual help afforded by union with this Insurance department.

COLLECTIVE LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	No. of Societies Assured.	Premiums Received.	No. of Members of Assured Societies.	Claims Paid.	
				No.	Amount.
					£
1912	382	83,700	722,323	10,686	63,798
1913	402	97,198	814,834	12,910	76,719
1914	462	107,109	912,301	15,236	97,077

LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS (INDIVIDUALS).

Year.	ORDINARY.			SPECIAL.			INDUSTRIAL.		
	Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.	
		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
			£			£			£
1912	26,441	78	7,241	11,716	272	2,736	3,619	152	1,404
1913	29,444	93	10,184	12,983	293	2,808	4,096	158	1,332
1914	33,188	107	11,238	14,831	359	3,228	4,666	171	1,477

£987. 18s. 3d. was received for Annuities granted.

FIRE, AND ACCIDENT AND GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	FIRE.				ACCIDENT AND GENERAL.			
	Sums Insured.	Premiums Received. †	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received. †	Claims Paid.		
			No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	
£			£			£		
1912	33,440,376	38,308	1,673	8,337	8,846	547	2,715	
1913	35,544,387	40,905	1,786	13,731	11,220	797	4,891	
1914	44,693,411	58,649	1,810	6,313	15,208	1002	4,861	

† Accident, Burglary, Fidelity, Plate Glass, Motor Vehicle and Horse Insurances are included in the Accident and General Account, and War Risk Insurances (1914) in the Fire Account.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.			
		Fatal.	Non-Fatal.	No.	Amount.
	£				£
1912	22,549	14	1,624	1,638	10,279
1913	28,158	18	2,235	2,253	12,399
1914	35,916	30	2,356	2,386	16,660

In 1914 the total premium income in all departments amounted to £266,265.17s. 1d.

The claims paid were 21,071 in number, amounting to a total of £140,855.18s. 10d.

INSURANCE FUNDS.

Year.	Life (Four Sections).	Fire.	Employers' Liability.	Accident and General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1912	229,719	128,564	28,359	19,978	406,620
1913	259,558	139,422	35,916	22,594	457,490
1914	284,909	167,990	41,886	28,030	522,815

Out of the profit and loss account, after paying interest on capital at the usual rate of 5 per cent, dividends of 2s. in the £ to members and 1s. in the £ to non-members upon their fire and fidelity premiums in 1913 were declared.

10. JOURNALS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The usual circular of inquiry, has been issued to societies, and below we give particulars of the societies which publish journals and records, and the number issued. It is satisfying to find that the circulation of the principal publications has increased during the past year.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY PAPERS AND RECORDS.

	No. of Societies Supplied.	Circulation.
† "Co-operative Union Review"	—	5,000
The "Co-operative News"	950	91,000
The "Millgate Monthly"	585	12,000
"Our Circle"	430	22,000
"Scottish Co-operator"	203	27,750
"Co-partnership"	—	8,000
"Co-operation in Agriculture"	—	3,000
The Co-operative Employé	700	13,000
The Wheatsheaf	*540	560,000

* Of the above Societies 489 issue the "Wheatsheaf" with from 2 to 16 or 20 local pages, supplementary to the general 16. Parkestone July issue, 1914, numbered 28 p.p. The number of local pages printed for March, 1915, was 1,487. The following list includes all the issues of 5,000 copies or over, and all of 3,000 and over which regularly appear with more than 4 pp.

† Issued quarterly.

Wheatsheaf :—

	Circulation.
Accrington and Church	3,000
Ashington Industrial	4,000
Barnsley	6,000
Belfast	9,000
Beswick	5,000
Birmingham	5,000
Bradford	7,000
Brightside	5,500
Bristol	4,000

		Circulation.
Bromley		5,000
Burslem		4,800
Burton-on-Trent		6,000
Carlisle ..		6,000
Coventry		3,000
Edmonton		20,000
Hull		9,700
Ipswich		12,000
Irish Societies, Jointly		3,000
Liverpool		22,000
Newcastle		14,400
New Swindon		3,000
Northampton		3,000
Nottingham		5,000
Oldham Equitable		5,000
Peterborough		4,800
Portsea Island		4,500
Reading		5,300
Stockton-on-Tees ..		5,000
Tamworth		3,800
Wallsall		3,000
Warrington		4,800
West London		6,600
	No. of Societies Supplied.	Circulation.
Educational Association (Northern Sec- tion) Record	—	4,000
District Record :—		
Nottingham	17	1,000
Records published by Societies :—		
Blackpool		3,500
Blaydon		3,000
Bolton		15,000
Burnley		4,000
†Bury		10,000
Cainscross and Ebley		4,000
Chorley		1,500
Coatbridge		1,000
Derby		8,000
Eccles		8,000
Failsworth		5,000
Gloucester		1,500
†Harrogate		4,000
†Keighley		5,000
†Kettering		7,000
Lancaster and Skerton		2,000

	Circulation.
Leeds	16,000
Leicester.....	7,000
Leigh	7,200
†Lincoln	9,000
Long Eaton	7,500
Manchester and Salford	8,250
†Middlesbrough	3,000
Norwich	5,000
Oldham Industrial	8,500
Pendleton	13,000
Perth (City of)	3,000
Plymouth	10,000
Preston	10,000
†Radcliffe and Pilkington.....	4,500
Stratford	5,000
Throckley	1,000
Woolwich	10,500
Workington Industrial	1,600

† Issued every two months. † Issued quarterly.

11. NEW SOCIETIES REGISTERED IN 1914.

(See Appendix III., page 182.)

From lists prepared by the Registrars of Friendly Societies in England and Wales and Assistant Registrars for Scotland and Ireland, we find that 166 societies were registered during 1914, but of this number only nine were retail societies, and three were productive, 44 were societies connected with agriculture, 41 were clubs, and 20 various. It will thus be seen that the Industrial and Provident Societies Act is now used for a great variety of objects, and includes many enterprises which we should not be disposed to recognise as being "co-operative."

(a) ENGLAND AND WALES.

The total number of societies for England and Wales is 166, a decrease of 30 as compared with 1913. The new societies are of a varied character and may be classified as follows:—

Distributive	9
Productive	3
Small Holdings and Allotments	17
Agricultural, Fruit Growers, and Agricultural Trading	44
Clubs	41
Land and Garden Suburbs	7
Coal	3
Fishermen's Societies	4
Tenants' Housing	18
Various—Unclassified	20

The distributive societies are as follows:—Paddington, Oakley and District, Oxford University, Dolgarrog, Llanfairfechan, Forward (Guernsey), Blaen Dulais, Lostwithiel and District, and Manchester and District Socialist.

The three productive societies registered are:—E Whiteley (Blackfriars Press) Rochdale and District Laundries, and Preston Shoe and Slipper Makers.

(b) SCOTLAND.

Thirty-eight new societies have been registered in Scotland during 1914, which are classified as follows:—

Distributive	4
Agricultural	23
Building	1
Land Bank ..	1
Tenants' Housing	1
Credit	2
Unclassified	6
	<hr/>
	38

The distributive societies are:—Abbey Green, Nunton, Durness, and Freuchie Reform.

(c) IRELAND.

Fifty new societies have been registered in Ireland during 1914. They are classified as follows:—

Distributive	5
Productive	2
Agricultural	20
Creameries	17
Poultry	1
Unclassified	5
	<hr/>
	50

The distributive societies are:—South County (Dublin), South City (Dublin), Millbrook, Renvyle, and Sligo.

12. SOCIETIES DISSOLVED OR AMALGAMATED IN 1914.

(See Appendix IV., page 193.)

During 1914, 104 societies dissolved or amalgamated, but it will be noted from the list contained in the Appendix, that a number of these are "final notices of winding up" and may have appeared in previous lists as being "in course of liquidation." Of the 15 distributive societies that have ceased to exist, 5 have amalgamated or transferred engagements to other societies.

Distributive	15
Productive	7
Small Holdings and Allotments	19
Agricultural, &c	17
Clubs	18
Land and Garden Suburbs	1
People's Bank	1
Coal	3
Tenants' Housing	2
Unclassified	21
	<hr/>
	104

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED.

13. SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE UNION during 1914.

The societies whose names appear in the following list have become affiliated to the Union since last Congress :—

Ireland : Irish Builders, Millbrook, Ochilmore, and Sligo and District.

Midland Section : Planet Mutual Insurance (Birmingham).

North-Western Section : Hinchliffe Mill, Holiday Fellowship, Llanfairfechan, Manchester and District Farmers, and Shelley.

Scottish Section : Gallatown, Kirkconnel, Larkhall Victualling, Leslie, Wanlockhead, and Wigtown.

Southern Section : Carterton Agricultural and Distributive, and Sunningdale.

South-Western Section : Camberne and Lostwithiel.

Western Section : Pontyberem.

14. SOCIETIES WHICH HAVE WITHDRAWN during 1914.

The undermentioned societies have ceased to be members of the Union for the reasons stated :—

By amalgamation or taking over—Bonnyrigg, Edwinstowe, Hallside, Hampton and New Hampton, Kilburn, Lees, Malvern, Scottish Co-operative Holidays Association, and Toxteth.

By ceasing to exist—Barnstaple, Co-operative Typewriters (London), Hull Brush Makers, Wayford Tenants, and West Barns.

By being struck off—Anstruther, Broadwell New, Carleton, Clee Hill, and Worcester Hamper.

15. SUMMARY OF MEMBERS.

Section.	Total No. of Societies.	Members of Union.	Non-members of Union.	Per Cent. Members of Union.
Ireland	37	25	12	75·0
Midland	215	186	29	86·5
Northern	141	133	8	94·3
North-Western ..	465	406	59	87·3
Scottish	279	213	66	76·3
Southern	201	174	27	86·5
South-Western ..	79	68	11	86·0
Western	93	79	14	84·0
	1,510	1,284	226	

† Societies members of the Union in 1915..... 1,284

† Societies members of the Union in 1914..... 1,272

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP.

	Number of Societies.	Per cent.	Membership of Societies.	Per cent.
† Members of Union	1,284	85·0	3,052,041	95·73
† Non-members of Union	226	15·0	136,099	4·27
Total No. of Societies	1,510	Total Membership	3,188,140	

† These figures refer only to Societies included in the Statistical Return.

16. UNITED BOARD.

The United Board has consisted of the following members of the Board appointed by their respective sections:—

Section.	Representatives.
Irish	Mr. R. Fleming.
Midland	Messrs. W. J. Douse and G. Harris.
Northern	Messrs. J. Murdoch and W. Scott.
North-Western ..	Messrs. W. Dewhurst, J. Lowe, W. Gregory, T. Redfearn and H. Stuttard.
Scottish	Messrs. G. Bisset and G. Wilson.
Southern	Messrs. M. H. Clear and S. Foulger
South-Western ..	Mr. R. R. Pryne.
Western	Mr. W. H. Bryant.

During the year the Board has met on five occasions, viz:—27th June, 18th September, 21st November, 1914; 23rd January, and 20th March, 1915 Mr. W. J. Douse was appointed Chairman of the Board for the year.

17. THE OFFICE COMMITTEE.

Section.	Representatives.
Irish	Mr. R. Fleming.
Midland	Mr. W. J. Douse.
Northern	Mr. J. Murdoch.
North-Western	Messrs. W. Dewhurst, J. Lowe, and W. Gregory.
Scottish	Mr. G. Bisset.
Southern	Mr. S. Foulger.
South-Western	Mr. R. R. Prynne.
Western	Mr. W. H. Bryant.

Mr. G. Bisset has acted as chairman of the committee.

18. COMMITTEES OF THE UNION.

The following is a list of the various committees which have been in existence during the past year:—

- (a) Committee on Education.
- (b) Joint Propaganda Committee.
- (c) Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- (d) Joint Exhibitions Committee.
- (e) Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators.
- (f) Co-operative Defence Committee.

The reports submitted by the above committees are given in their usual order in this report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

19. CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(See Appendix V., pages 199 to 221.)

The constitution of the Committee for the past Congress year has been as follows:—

Representing the Sections:

Irish	Mr. H. Archer.
Midland.....	Mr. J. Langley.
Northern	Mr. W. R. Rae.
North-Western	Messrs. E. Booth and S. Fairbrother.
Scottish	Mr. J. Lucas.
Southern	Mr. A. W. Golightly.
South-Western	Mr. H. J. Drake.
Western	Mr. D. Evans.

Representing the Educational Committees' Associations:

Midland.....	Miss C. Woolley.
Northern	Mr. W. Clayton.
North-Western	Messrs. J. S. Armitage and W. A. Lees.
Southern	Miss J. P. Madams.
South-Western.....	Mr. W. White.

Representing the Women's

Co-operative Guild..... Mrs. F. M. Eddie.

Representing the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés:

Mr. T. W. Mercer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The committee reappointed as their chairman Mr. W. R. Rae, who has thus filled this position for thirteen consecutive years. The full committee have met on four occasions during the year, and the sub-committee have held five meetings.

We again give in the Appendix interesting figures respecting classes formed and students enrolled under the auspices of this committee for the past session, also particulars of scholarships, grants, and prizes awarded to students during the previous session to that. These details will enable comparisons to be made with past sessions, and thus show the continuity of our work in this direction.

CLASS WORK, SESSION 1914-15.

In August last we followed our usual custom and got into touch with Education Committees *re* class work for session 1914-15. This was, however, at the very time that the European War commenced, and we naturally concluded that this event would seriously interfere with the class work undertaken by societies. We are, however, glad to state that co-operators responded well to the appeal "Business as usual," and in their educational work decided to "carry on."

The number of classes formed reached 543, compared with 564 for the previous session, whilst the number of students enrolled numbered 20,087 in comparison with 22,010 last year. We expected some considerable leakage in the number of classes formed, and hardly hoped for the good registration which has taken place. We give in the Appendix details for the various classes.

CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES.

As in previous sessions, we have again established for those students unable to attend any local centre, correspondence classes in the following subjects:—"Co-operation," "Industrial History," "Citizenship," "Economics," and "Co-operative Bookkeeping." The subject "Economics of Co-operation" has again been dealt with by correspondence, and we are satisfied that it is proving of great benefit to the students who have entered for the course. Possibly, within the next year or two, local classes may be

formed in this subject by societies, with teachers who have been trained in the correspondence class.

TRAINING COURSES.

(a) *Co-operative Secretaries.*

The experiment of substituting a seven months' course for one of twelve months has proved satisfactory both to students and teacher, and is being continued on similar lines for the present session. The fifth examination was held in June last, when twenty-two students presented themselves for examination; of this number, seventeen satisfied the examiners. The best student was Mr. H. N. Bridge (Ripley), who thus qualified for the special prize awarded by the Secretaries' Association. It is interesting to note also that the same student secured the prize offered by this committee for the best homework done through the session. Mr. A. Varley (Lancaster), president of the Secretaries' Association, has again acted as teacher, and the examination of the papers was carried out by Messrs. G. Briggs (Leeds) and J. Jarman (Warrington), who, along with the chairman and secretary of this committee, form the Secretaries' Examination Board.

(b) *Co-operative Auditing.*

The committee have long recognised the importance of instituting a training course in this subject under their direct auspices, and on the issue of the new text book at once organised a training course, with the author of the book (Mr. B. Tetlow) as teacher. For the first year the course has been fixed for January to June, and is conducted by correspondence only. We have enrolled sixteen students, which is considered satisfactory for a commencement, and have adopted for this course the same regulations obtaining in the secretarial course, viz., that each student must first possess our third stage certificate in book-keeping before being admitted a member, and must also pass the second stage in Co-operation before his certificate is granted.

TRAINING OF CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES.

(a) *Apprentices and Junior Employés.*

It is five years since these classes were inaugurated, and, notwithstanding the absence of a text book, there has been a steady increase in support from students and committees of management.

It must be agreed by all who have observed the signs of the times, the present commercial position of the movement, and the keen competition from outside, that there is the greatest need for an active, intelligent, and well disciplined service, and the best time to commence the training is during the time of apprenticeship, when the habits of life are being formed. Some inducement should be held out to students joining the class, such as no fees being charged, provision of free text book, and increases in remuneration for those successful at the examinations.

We have again registered seventeen classes, the same number as last year, but this time with 260 students as against 243 of the previous session.

(b) Salesmen.

The training which the employé began in the apprentices' stage is continued by our classes for salesmen, and centres for these employés have been established throughout the country at different places :—

	Centres.	Students.
Midland Section	3	49
Northern Section	3	60
North-Western Section	10	180
Scottish Section	3	46
Southern Section	1	15
South-Western Section	1	15
Western Section	2	50

(c) General Managers and Honours.

These two stages are specially arranged for students who have passed through the course for Salesmen and desire to continue their studies in Co-operative Management. These courses are by correspondence tuition only. The teacher for both stages is Mr. R. J. Wilson (Sunderland), editor of the text book.

Every certificate obtained in Management, with distinction, has meant a considerable amount of study and close application by the student, and should be duly recognised in some manner. Committees should

- (1) Reward the gaining of a Salesman's certificate of distinction by an increase of wages.
- (2) Promote as branch managers, when occasion offers, the holders of Managers' certificates.
- (3) In selecting men from replies to advertisements, give due preference to the holders of certificates.

The following outlined course of study for a co-operative employé shows that there are twelve examinations to pass before securing the highest certificate, and emphasises the amount of work put in by the employé who secures this certificate :—

- Age.
- 16-17.—Apprentices, Part I., and "Our Story."
 - 17-18.—Apprentices, Part II.
 - 18-19.—Book-keeping and Co-operation, First Stages.
 - 19-20.—Salesmanship.
 - 20-21.—Book-keeping and Co-operation, Second Stages.
 - 21-22.—General Management.
 - 22-23.—Book-keeping, Third Stage.
 - 23-24.—Co-operation, Third Stage.
 - 24-25.—Honours in Management.

EXPENSES OF EMPLOYÉS' CLASSES.

Although classes of this nature are run at considerable expense, the committee believe that the money is well spent, and would like to see a

further extension of the work in any part of the country hitherto practically untouched. Each year shows a deficit, after taking into account the fees paid by the students, last year for the session ended May, 1914, this amounted to £105. 5s. 3d., and particulars for each year are given in the Appendix. Since the inauguration of these classes, in the session of 1905-1906, there have been enrolled 5,416 students, and up to May, 1914, 2,112 have successfully passed the examinations.

STUDENTS FOR EXAMINATION.

The totals entered for the examinations during the session under review reached 12457, as against 13,143 for the previous session. For details of the various subjects, reference must again be made to the Appendix.

The duties of examiners have been carried out by the following, there being a change only in the subject of "Management," Salesmen's Section. This change was necessary owing to the regretted death of Mr. Charles Wright.

Subject.	Examiner.
Junior Classes in Co-operation, and re-examination of best papers, Section III.....	Mrs. G. H. FEWINS (Plymouth).
Intermediate Classes (Re-examination) "Lives of Great Men and Women" ..	
Co-operation—Adults'	Miss C. WEBB (Wimbledon)
Industrial History	
Citizenship	Mr. L. L. PRICE, M.A. (Oxford).
Economics	
Economics of Co-operation	Professor HALL, M.A.
Co-operative Book-keeping	Messrs. W. APPLEBY & T. WOOD (Manchester).
„ Auditing	
Training of Co-operative Employés:	
Apprentices and Juniors—	
Part I.	{ OFFICE, EDUCATION DEPT., CO-OPERATIVE UNION.
„ II.	
Salesmen	Mr. R. J. WILSON (Sunderland).
General Managers and Honours	Mr. E. ASHTON (Manchester).
	Mr. W. M. SCOTT (Kilbirnie).
Training of Co-operative Secretaries	Mr. D. ROWAT (Paisley).
	{ SECRETARIES' EXAMINATION BOARD (Messrs. G. Briggs, J. Jarman, W. R. Rae, and C. E. Wood).

CLASSES AT HOLYOAKE HOUSE.

We have again been active in class work at Holyoake House, but one or two classes have had to be abandoned, as they were considerably affected by the war. The classes held have been as follows:—Elocution and Public Speaking (Summer and Winter), 4; Salesmanship, 1; Book-keeping, 2;

Women's Class, 1; Economic History, 1; Literature, 1; the total number of students enrolled reached 389, a substantial increase on the previous session.

CLASSES FOR WOMEN CO-OPERATORS.

In conjunction with the Central Council of the Women's Co-operative Guilds for England and Scotland, we have again arranged classes specially for our women co-operators. For England and Wales we have established fourteen classes, with 365 students, and for Scotland seven classes, with 250 students. The syllabus has included lectures on Co-operation, Co-operative Accounts, and some of the special subjects undertaken by the Women's Guild.

ADVISER OF STUDIES.

The Central Board, at their meeting at Dublin Congress last year, adopted the recommendation—consideration of which was deferred at their meeting at Aberdeen—of the Central Education Committee to appoint a permanent teacher on the staff of the Union, with headquarters at Holyoake House. Advertisements were inserted in co-operative and other journals likely to reach qualified persons, and sixty-seven applications for the post were received. These applications were considered by a special selection committee, consisting of four representatives of the United Board and six representatives of the Central Education Committee. A short list of six candidates was prepared and special inquiries made regarding the qualifications of the applicants. Three of them were then invited to attend a meeting of the Central Education Committee, with whom the representatives of the United Board sat. The candidates were questioned, and after a competitive vote the majority candidate was unanimously recommended to the United Board for appointment. The United Board confirmed the recommendation.

Professor Hall, M.A., B.Com., who was appointed to the post with the designation "Adviser of Studies," is already known to many co-operators. Leaving school at thirteen, he entered business, but his interest in education led to his entering Manchester University some twelve years later, where he took his B.Com., B.A., and M.A. degrees successively in the years 1908, 1909, and 1910. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, the Royal Economic Society, and the Royal Statistical Society, and holds numerous certificates showing high educational attainments. At the time of his appointment he held the positions of Professor of Commerce and Head of the Department of Commerce in the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast. In these capacities he was responsible for the organisation of the Commerce Department, in which there were over 2,000 students and fifty teachers in the evening section alone. Before going to Belfast, he had taught junior and adult classes in Co-operation and classes in Co-operative Management, and had also conducted the Union's correspondence classes in Economics and Economics of Co-operation. By reason of his strong co-operative sympathies, his business experience as secretary and manager, his academic training in

social and business subjects, his experience as teacher and organiser of educational work, we believe Mr. Hall well qualified to undertake the work allotted to him, and look forward to useful developments of the educational work of the movement as a result of his appointment. Though Mr. Hall's headquarters will be at Manchester, it is the desire of the committee, and of Mr. Hall himself, that all sections should freely utilise his advisory and other services, so that the whole of the movement may reap the benefit from appointment.

LECTURES FOR SECRETARIES.

We have continued, in conjunction with the Secretaries' Association, the lectures for co-operative secretaries, and for the last winter extended the same to the Newcastle and London centres, in addition to Manchester. At each place the same lecture was given, and by the same person, the subjects being as follows :—

“Leakage.” Mr. Newton E. Smith, F.C.I.S., Manager-Secretary, Edmonton Co-operative Society.

“Fire Insurance.” Mr. F. D. Rugen, Manager, London Branch Co-operative Insurance Society.

“Production by Retail Co-operative Societies, and Accounts relating thereto.” Mr. Alfred Wood, F.C.A., London.

“Railway Rates.” Mr. T. S. Pashley, Railway Rates Department, Co-operative Wholesale Society, Manchester.

The lectures given in the previous year were printed in booklet form, and for this there was a good demand. It is intended to follow the same course in respect to the above-named lectures.

DEMONSTRATIONS FOR JUNIOR CO-OPERATORS.

At the close of our class session, we followed our custom of previous years, and organised demonstrations for junior students at Manchester, Newcastle, London, and Bristol. Altogether some 800 of our students from junior classes and junior guilds took part at the different centres. We were considerably helped in our arrangements by the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and were enabled to carry out successfully the following programme at each centre, viz., visits to the departments of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, addresses on “Co-operation,” and after tea a lantern lecture on “Productions of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.” These demonstrations were much appreciated by the juniors and their teachers, and we hope this event will appear annually in the co-operative calendar.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

In August last we organised our second Summer School for adult co-operators, and this was held at Arnside, in the Furness district. We extended the period of the school to one month, and despite the great dislocation caused at that period by the war, we succeeded in obtaining an attendance of forty persons per week for the four weeks the school was open. In the Appendix we give a full report of this second school, and owing to its

success we have determined—with the approval of the United Board—to organise the third Summer School for this year, to be held at the same place and for the same period. The school will accommodate comfortably sixty people per week, and we earnestly hope that committees of societies will see their way to send representatives, either through scholarships or by appointments, in order to ensure its success. The programme has already been issued to all societies, and as our movement must contain many keen educationists among its three million members, the accommodation at the school ought to be taxed to its utmost capacity.

We are pleased to note that the Scottish Sectional Board are moving in this direction. In July next they propose to establish the First Scottish Co-operative Summer School. We wish them every success.

EASTER WEEK-END FOR CO-OPERATORS.

Our Annual Easter Week-end—the eighth of the series—was held at Oxford at the invitation of the Executive Committee of Ruskin College. Through this college being closed, and for the time being used for housing Belgian refugees, our meetings were held at Balliol, through the kindness of the authorities of that college. An excellent programme was arranged, and details are given in the Appendix. The meetings were well attended, and for gatherings of this character Oxford as a centre seems to be exceedingly popular. Thanks are due and tendered to all friends for the efforts put forth to make this gathering one of the best so far organised by this committee.

Whilst on this question of Week-ends, we should like again to call the attention of sectional boards to the desirability of establishing Sectional Week-ends for Co-operators. In this respect good work has already been done by the Northern, North-Western, and Scottish boards, and the Week-ends arranged by them have been very much appreciated.

EDUCATION MEETINGS AT CONGRESS.

(a) *Monday.*

Owing to the inability of arranging an International Session at this Congress, an alteration has been made in the usual series of meetings. Instead of the joint meeting of the Workers' Educational Association and the Students' Fellowship, usually held on the Saturday, a special meeting has been arranged for the Monday evening, and will again be a joint one for the Men's Co-operative Guild, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and the Workers' Educational Association. Representative speakers from each of these bodies have been appointed, and it is hoped that a successful meeting will be the outcome.

(b) *Tuesday.*

The success of the Educational Meeting arranged at each Congress for many years past has led this committee to make the Tuesday evening

meeting one of the chief features, and this year we have been fortunate in obtaining as speaker the Rev. Dr. Gore, Bishop of Oxford. Dr. Gore will speak on "Citizenship," and we are hopeful that another very successful meeting will be held on this occasion.

CO-OPERATIVE STUDENTS' FELLOWSHIP.

This auxiliary body, assisting in the educational work of the movement, held its sixth annual meeting at Oxford during the Easter Week-end. The report for the past year appears in the Appendix, but here again the war has had its effect on the activities of the Fellowship, and last winter was very quiet in this respect. The chief purpose of this organisation is to train and develop co-operative thought, and to direct into co-operative channels the activities of those students who have passed our examinations and taken part in our educational work. We require all the help we can secure to make more effective our work among co-operative societies, and we believe that the Fellowship, rightly developed, provides a means whereby these activities may be focussed. The present membership is 800.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

This new organisation continues to show increasing activity, and up to the present the number of branches affiliated to the National body is 72, with a total membership of 2,600. There is still the close connection between the Men's Guild and our committee, and the Guild Central Office is at Holyoake House. The National Guild is governed by a Central Council elected by the branches, and this council has held four quarterly meetings. To assist in the propaganda work we have, jointly with the Guild Council, organised conferences at London, Sheffield, and Manchester, whilst the Annual Meeting was held at Oxford during Easter. The Annual Report is too lengthy to be given herewith, and is printed in the Appendix. We should like, as a committee, to make a direct appeal to all societies to seriously consider the formation of branches of the Guild as part of their educational work, and so endeavour to arouse an interest in co-operative matters amongst their male membership. The income of the Guild is derived from subscriptions of branches, together with a grant from the Co-operative Wholesale Society of £50 yearly. The deficit (if any) on the working of the Guild for each year is defrayed from the funds of the Union.

Each month there appears in the *Co-operative News* "Notes" devoted to the general activity of the Guild, and in addition there are branch reports of meetings held locally.

PUBLICATIONS.

(a) Books.

Since the last report to Congress a Special Publications Committee has been formed, composed of the members of our sub-committee and two representatives from the United Board (Messrs. W. Gregory and T. Redfearn). This committee has now the control and oversight of all publications and pamphlets issued by the Union.

During the year three new books have been published :—

(a) "Co-operation for All," by Percy Redfern. This is a book written specially for adults, and the object of the committee in issuing it is that it should arouse as great an interest for "Co-operation" among adults as "Our Story" has done among juniors. It is being sold at the low price of 3d. per copy, and up to date about 25,000 copies have been sold.

(b) "Text-book for Apprentices and Junior Employés," by R. J. Wilson. This publication is intended to be used as a text book for the first stage in our training scheme for co-operative employés, but it is a book which can be given with advantage to all junior employés, whether connected with a class or not. The selling price is 1s. 6d. per copy.

(c) "Co-operative Auditing," by B. Tetlow. This book will now be the official text book for our training course in Co-operative Auditing. The new book has been well received, and for the time being completes our series of text books.

The various text books published to date are as follows, viz :—

Subject.	Text Books.
Co-operation (for Juniors).....	"Our Story."
Intermediate Classes.....	"Lives of Great Men and Women."
Co-operation (for Adults).....	"Industrial Co-operation," also "Working Men Co-operators," and "Co-operation for All."
Bookkeeping (three stages)	"Co-operative Bookkeeping."
Secretarial Work	"The Co-operative Secretary."
Co-operative Management—	
Apprentice Stage	"The Co-operative Apprentice's Text Book."
Salesmen Stage	"The Co-operative Manager's Text Book."
General Manager's Stage....	
Honours Stage.....	
Auditing..	"Co-operative Auditing."

The committee have under consideration the republishing of the old "Manual for Co-operators," written by Edward Vansittart Neale and Thomas Hughes, as it is still felt by many that this book deals with the basic principles of co-operation as no other book does.

Another book which the committee has in contemplation is a handbook or guide for committees of societies. If at all possible we intend to publish such a book during the next Congress Year.

(b) *Pamphlets, &c.*

The committee have given serious consideration to the present stock of pamphlets and leaflets published by the Union. They have overhauled the whole of this literature, in order to dispense with those which are out of date. Fifty-four pamphlets, when the present stock is exhausted, will be withdrawn. A new price list has been prepared, and in another part of this Report will be found particulars of new leaflets and pamphlets issued.

ESSAY COMPETITION.

We have again held this competition, but regret that not more entries are received. For our eighth competition we selected as subject, "Co-operative Production: Its Ethical Basis." Only some thirteen essays were received. The papers were kindly adjudicated by Mr. Andrew Young, and the first prize of £3 was won by Mr. G. Williamson (Edinburgh). This prize essay has since been printed, and may be obtained from the Central Office of the Union. The second prize of £2 was won by Mr. S. Alfred Purdie (Plymouth).

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

Just before the outbreak of war we had practically completed our arrangements for the Annual Excursion, which is held in September of each year. The place selected was Italy, with headquarters at Lugano, and including a visit to Milan for the purpose of inspecting the co-operative premises and factories in that city. The proposed tour had to be abandoned, though it is intended to resume these annual outings to the Continent when circumstances permit.

COLLEGE CONFERENCE.

One of the most important conferences convened by the Co-operative Union was that held in May last. It was impossible to include in the report to Dublin Congress any record of the proceedings.

For some time past propaganda work for the establishment of a Co-operative College has been going on, the aims of such a college being—

(a) To complete the scheme of co-operative education by providing a centre for higher education in the specialised subjects required for the full equipment of the co-operator and for the further development of efficiency in the co-operative movement.

(b) To provide a centre for the cultivation of the co-operative spirit, the generation of enthusiasm for the application of co-operative principles, and the inspiring of students for service in the cause of co-operation; to assist in all possible ways in the diffusion of a knowledge of co-operative principles and practice and the cultivation of a healthy co-operative opinion; and to co-operate with, and help, all existing organisations having these objects.

(c) To undertake investigations and research calculated to aid the general development and progress of co-operation and stimulate the application of co-operative principles in the solution of social problems.

In order to keep an official record in our publications, we have reprinted a report of the conference in our Appendix, but we give herewith the resolutions which were passed at this conference:—

That this meeting of delegates appointed by representative co-operative organisations heartily approves the proposal to establish a Co-operative College on the general lines suggested in the

Co-operative Union paper, "A Co-operative College" (but with such modifications as may be thought desirable), and requests the authorisation of the organisations here represented to continue to act as a provisional committee, with power to co-opt representatives of other co-operative organisations as may be deemed desirable, for the purpose of undertaking preliminary work.

This provisional committee asks the United Board of the Co-operative Union—

- (a) To arrange for propaganda work on behalf of the Co-operative College proposals in conjunction with other organisations.
- (b) To prepare for the realisation of the full scheme by developing educational work at Holyoake House and the Summer Schools, so that experience may be gained and a nucleus of students secured.

So far it has not been possible to take any further action, but there is published from time to time a publication entitled the *College Herald*, mainly issued to the members of the *College Herald* Circle, a group of some 300 educational enthusiasts. We hope to give a fuller report on this matter by next Congress.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

No change has been made during the past year as regards representation from educational associations on our Central Committee. It is recognised by our committee that in these associations there are possibilities of much important work being accomplished in the direction and furtherance of co-operative education, and we again thank these associations for the assistance they have rendered the committee in carrying out the suggestions of the Central Committee contained in the Educational Programme. In the sectional reports will be found a record of the educational work done by the respective sectional educational associations.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Since our last report the work of this Association has greatly increased. The number of university tutorial classes has grown from 145 to 152, and but for the war this number would have been much larger. The whole Association has naturally lost many of its members owing to the war, but those who are unable to go have turned their attention to understanding the causes of the European situation and numerous study circles and classes have been formed in Modern History.

The Workers' Educational Association overseas is as active as in Great Britain. There are altogether 32 tutorial classes running besides others of a less exacting type, and each State in the Australian Commonwealth has its

association. The co-operative movement generally has been a source of inspiration to the Association, and in Australia and Canada the help of co-operators has been especially valuable in the establishment of the movement.

The Co-operative Union, through this committee, continues its affiliation, the representative appointed on the Central Council being Mr. C. E. Wood.

UNIVERSITY JOINT TUTORIAL CLASSES COMMITTEES.

The working of University Joint Committees upon which we are represented, and through which we exercise influence upon Universities themselves, has proceeded steadily throughout the year. It is a matter for satisfaction that the amount administered by these committees solely in the education of co-operators, trade-unionists, &c., has amounted in the few short years in which they have been at work to £37,540. Of this amount the Universities have contributed £17,440; the Board of Education, £12,000; the Local Education Authorities, £6,100; and various bodies, such as the Gilchrist Trustees, the Workers' Educational Association, &c., £2,000. It is of course obvious that the war will seriously affect funds at the disposal of Universities, and it is very much to be hoped at this juncture that organisations of working people will make contributions to the funds of joint committees. It would be a disaster if the number of classes decreased, and it is quite certain that if such contributions were made they would prove a powerful lever in the securing of still further funds such as joint committees need. It is now quite clear that Tutorial Classes can be started anywhere where the organising is properly carried out. It is a matter of satisfaction to us that the tutors appointed by the Universities of Sydney and Hobart are both old co-operative students. One indeed, Herbert Heaton, received his inspiration in a co-operative class and first came in contact with the tutorial class movement at an Oxford Summer School.

Our representatives on Joint Committees are as follows:—

Birmingham University.....	Miss C. WOOLLEY.
Nottingham University	Mr. J. LANGLEY.
Liverpool University	Mr. S. FAIRBROTHER.
Leeds University.. ..	Mr. E. BOOTH.
Durham University.....	Mr. W. R. RAE.
London University.....	Miss J. P. MADAMS.
Oxford University.....	Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY.
Bristol University.....	Mr. D. EVANS.
Manchester University.....	Mrs. F. M. EDDIE.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure of this committee for the financial year of 1914 had been £1,979. 7s. 6d., and the receipts (not including sale of publications) £652. 7s., leaving a net expenditure on the funds of the Union of £1,347. 0s. 6d. For the year 1913 the expenditure was £1,633. 9s. 3d. and receipts £519. 17s. 6d., leaving a net expenditure of £1,113. 11s. 9d.

GENERAL.

It is somewhat difficult to detach our minds from the great strife of nations, but the committee feel convinced that at the close of hostilities the future development of the co-operative movement will depend very largely upon the nature and extent of the educational facilities provided by societies for their members, and we would suggest that societies generally give greater consideration to the provision of classes both for adults and juniors. It is our pressing duty to create high ideals in citizenship, and each winter should see us earnestly engaged in the promotion of meetings at which wider citizenship should be discussed. We must continue earnestly our work with children, and teach them the real lessons of history ; also with our young people, who must be taught to look beyond the horror of the present to the better days to come. Our meetings of members, too, should continue ; on right lines they should help to prevent panics and to spread reliance.

Our country is engaged in a life and death struggle against conscienceless militarism, and we are proud, despite our horror of the whole business, of the part being played by British manhood. How splendid is the evidence of a patriotism that is as widespread as the Empire ! How praiseworthy are the efforts our young men are making to equip themselves for the days of trial ! Nothing is left to chance. The best brains are organising, the bravest hearts are planning a successful fight, and mutual encouragement abounds. There is no party—we are each for all. There is no neglect—we are all for each. Britain *must* win, her people have such a sense of their responsibility and such a determination towards success. But hundreds of thousands of the same people are at war with extortion, exploitation, and bad conditions of labour. They fly the flag of the co-operator, and their motto is as purely patriotic as may be. But *they have not the same sense of responsibility as the soldier*. If they had, their young men would all be trained apprentices, their employes all certificated salesmen, and their members imbued with a feeling that behind all our trading there are possibilities that are enormous for good. Can *we* win, when we are so apathetic ? Out against us is the force of organised individualism, in the shape of the trust and the combine. Is our army ready for the field ? When the European War is over, shall we tackle the economic war with the same zeal ? If not, why not ? If the systems of training that are offered us are not satisfactory, let us “scrap” them and get better, but for any sake let us cease to call ourselves reformers and leaders until we have done more, far more, to spread necessary knowledge among our people.

W. R. RAE, Chairman.

C. E. WOOD, Secretary.

20. THE JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Joint Propaganda Committee for the Congress year has been constituted as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union: Messrs. S. R. Foster, G. Goodenough, and W. Millerchip.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. I. Mort, **J. Shillito**, T. E. Shotton, and G. Woodhouse.

The committee has sustained a serious loss by the death of its chairman Mr. J. Shillito, who has acted in that position since 1907. He always took the deepest interest in co-operative propaganda, being especially keen wherever he thought there was the slightest possibility of introducing co-operation. His wide knowledge of the country and the people enabled him to give advice in many cases as to the probability of the movement being successful in any particular district where efforts were to be made to form a society.

The members of the committee deplore his loss, and desire to place on record their high appreciation of the good work he had done.

At the first meeting of the committee after Congress, Mr. J. Shillito was appointed Chairman for the year, and Messrs. T. Brodrick and A. Whitehead as joint secretaries; the meetings have been held as usual at intervals of six weeks.

The work of the committee has been conducted on similar lines to that appertaining in the past, as the scheme for an extension of joint propaganda work decided upon prior to last Congress has not yet been thoroughly organised by the sectional boards and district associations; the local committees having practically suspended their meetings since the outbreak of war. The machinery is, however, ready, and, as opportunities arise, due consideration will be given to this important co-operative work.

The work of the organiser (Mr. Griffiths) has been more in the direction of assisting weak and struggling societies, or in canvassing districts where an already existing society has had under consideration an extension of operations. In several cases, however, he has visited towns where efforts were being put forward with a view to forming new societies. At Aberystwyth a society has recently been formed, the prospects seem very bright as to its success. At Machynlleth and Llandrindod Wells also attempts have been made, but, owing to the unsettled state of the country, the operations have for the present been suspended.

Through its propagandist agent (Mr. Griffiths) the committee has rendered invaluable assistance to many societies which have been struggling for existence, and the help given at the critical time has been acknowledged by the societies so assisted.

At each meeting of the committee a report of the work done by the organiser has been submitted.

The following is a list of the districts and places visited and worked during the year:—Aberystwyth, Anstey, Bridgnorth, Carmarthen, Cheadle (Staffs.) Daventry, Hastings, Llandrindod Wells, Louth, Ludlow, Machynlleth, Melton Mowbray, Oakham, Oakengates, Porthcawl, Prees, Ryde (Isle of Wight), Sapcote, Shrewsbury, Warwick, Wednesbury, Wellington, Wem, and West Bromwich.

Special propaganda work has also been undertaken in the Northern and Southern sections, in several instances special canvassers have been engaged, the results of their work being reported periodically to the Committee.

T. E. SHOTTON, Chairman.

T. BRODRICK, } Joint
A. WHITEHEAD, } Secretaries.

21. JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Parliamentary Committee is at present constituted as follows :—

Co-operative Union : Messrs. G. Bisset, S. Foulger, J. Murdoch, and T. Redfearn.

Co-operative Wholesale Society : Messrs. T. Tweddell, R. Holt, H. C. Pingstone, and H. J. A. Wilkins.

Scottish Wholesale Society : Messrs. W. R. Allan, W. Gallacher, T. B. Stirling, and G. Thomson.

Messrs. T. Brodrick and A. Whitehead (honorary secretaries).

H. J. May, secretary.

At the first meeting of the committee held after the Congress, Mr. T. Tweddell was unanimously re-elected chairman for the year.

GENERAL MATTERS.

The first few months of the year were characterised by the usual activity of the committee about many matters of general interest to the movement, the chief of which was the question of short weight, referred by Parliament to a select committee for investigation. Amongst others, the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, Income Tax, Weights and Measures, Bread Act of 1836, Bribery (Prevention of Corruption) Act, and the Milk and Dairies Bill received attention.

The outbreak of war, however, diverted the legislative stream into another channel, which not only concluded our hopes of domestic legislation but destroyed the chance of serious social progress for some years to come. Incidentally, however, the rapidity with which the most drastic laws have been passed and put into operation, affecting not only our personal liberties, but also the facilities acquired by long years of associated effort, will furnish excellent precedents in the future for demanding a general speeding-up of the antiquated Parliamentary machine.

The latter part of the year has, therefore, been absolutely sterile of any legislative efforts other than the emergency legislation imposed upon us by the greatest crisis in the history of our country. On the other hand, quite a crop of small problems arising out of the war conditions have been dealt with by the committee, such as the representation of co-operators on local relief committees, and the rise in the prices of necessaries of life. In these, and kindred matters, the committee has exercised itself to secure for

co-operators due consideration on all local and national matters. Some particulars of the action taken in the chief of these questions are given in the following paragraphs :—

MILK AND DAIRIES BILL.

In our last report it was noted that the representatives of the Parliamentary Committee had been received by the President of the Board of Agriculture, and had placed before him the objections of co-operators to the Bill in its original form. Mr. Runciman then expressed himself as being impressed with some of our representations and promised to consider them further. He was certainly as good as his word, and when the Bill was reintroduced into Parliament in the early part of last year it was found to be completely redrafted. Practically the whole of the points to which we had taken exception were either modified or removed from the Bill.

SHORT WEIGHT.

In March of last year a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire "whether any, and, if so, what steps should be taken to protect purchasers of goods sold in packages, and of bread from short weight or measure." The Parliamentary Committee was asked to tender evidence which it promptly made arrangements to do, and the secretary was appointed to collect the necessary particulars and submit the same to the Select Committee. Societies were asked to give particulars of their method of dealing in bread, i.e., as to selling by weight and the possibility of guaranteeing a standard loaf. Such a variety of practice was revealed that we could only submit the particulars and urge the necessity of a uniform system.

The two Wholesale Societies' Joint Tea Committee gave particulars of their tea packing, and the cost of supplying tea full weight without the package. A similar statement was obtained from each of two distributive societies which pack large quantities of tea for their own members. The combined figures formed a very striking illustration of the advantages of co-operative methods. In the matter of packed goods in general the experience of the two Wholesale Societies provided a very useful object lesson in packing at full net weights. The evidence thus collected was submitted to the Select Committee, prefaced by the following memorandum :—

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SHORT WEIGHT ON BEHALF OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

This evidence is submitted on behalf of the co-operative movement as an indication, not only of the desire of the mass of the people for some reform in the legislative control of commerce in the direction of securing just weight and honest treatment of the consumer, but as proof that the practical difficulties which are so often alleged may be well overcome by manufacturers and packers who desire to do so, or who may have the

obligation placed upon them by the law to supply their goods at definite standard weights.

The attention of the co-operative movement, through its Parliamentary Committee, has for a long time been directed towards this object. Without criticising too closely what has been, and is, the general commercial practice, we desire to submit the statements which follow as direct evidence of what has been accomplished by working men and women when combined to establish industry and trade solely in the interests of those who consume and pay. Judged from this standpoint we submit that the operations of the co-operative societies form a bulk of solid experience on ideal lines which the Select Committee on Short Weight not only cannot ignore, but which will form a solid basis on which to found their report.

The organised co-operative movement comprises about 1,600 societies with an aggregate membership of over three millions, a share capital of £41,000,000, and a trade of £130,000,000. It distributes in so-called dividend, which is, in reality, merely the surplus created by working their business on ordinary commercial prices, upwards of £14,000,000 per annum.

This surplus goes back directly and *pro rata* of the purchases to every individual purchasing member of the societies.

Other details of the working of the movement are at the disposal of the committee if they desire to have them, but the above figures will indicate generally the operations of the societies for which we speak, and the fact that our representations are backed by about one-eighth of the population.

It is one of the main objects of the co-operative movement to secure to its members full justice in all commercial undertakings, and therefore an article of faith that full weights and highest quality and value should be given to everyone concerned, either as consumer, producer, or distributor.

The movement has established for itself wholesale societies in England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the primary object of making the consumers their own middlemen. It has also added to this many works of production conducted at separate factories for the various commodities. In addition, a number of retail societies produce certain articles and have established the means of packing goods, notably tea, for their own local requirements.

With regard to the making and the sale of bread, the experience of co-operators is probably larger than that of any other bakers in the country. We have 17 societies established solely for that purpose, the largest of which directs a trade of nearly £700,000 per annum, the aggregate trade of the 17 societies totalling over £850,000 per annum. In addition to this, the large majority of the ordinary retail societies bake the bread for the consumption of their own members.

We have, therefore, the greatest confidence in submitting to the Select

Committee evidence of the practicability of carrying on trade under regulations which will standardise the packages, and other forms of supply, of various articles to the community in general.

We have no objection to the system of supplying goods in packets, which is a method obviously demanded by present-day needs, but we are strongly against the practice of supplying the public with goods in fancy packages, the weight of which is included in the reputed weight of the article supplied, and also the many cases in which no regard whatever is paid to the weight of the commodity sold.

We, therefore, urge that such regulations or legislation shall be passed as will ensure to the purchaser a clear declaration of the net weight of the goods contained in the package, and that wherever possible standard weights shall be established, as, for instance, in the case of tea and bread.

On 17th June, the secretary appeared before the Select Committee and was examined by the Chairman and various members at length, in support of the written statement of the Parliamentary Committee.

The Select Committee submitted its report to Parliament on 15th July, and an examination of its proposals will show that some of our suggestions were adopted.

The recommendations were divided into two groups: the first dealing with goods sold by retail in general, and the second with bread.

1. With regard to goods sold by retail the recommendations were as follows :—

(a) Short weight or measure generally in the retail sale of goods should be made a statutory offence, and the duty of enforcing the law should rest with local authorities administering the Weights and Measures Acts.

(b) Vendors who sell goods by gross weight should be compelled so to inform the purchaser by a clear and prominent notice, and should bear the onus of proving that the weight of the wrapper, so included, is reasonable.

(c) It is desirable that it should be made a statutory offence for a seller to make a false oral representation as to the weight or measure of goods sold.

(d) With regard to the exceptions referred to in paragraph 7, the committee recommend that it be made illegal to sell tea, coffee, and cocoa (in powder) in retail by any other system than by net weight. With a view to the practice of selling penny packets, they recommend that quantities not exceeding 1oz. may be excepted. The committee make the recommendation in the full knowledge that it may, in certain cases, mean a change in price or a lowering of quality, but, in the long run, competition will, without doubt, take care of both these factors. While reluctant to interfere with customs of trade, the committee think the change proposed is one which can be made without difficulty or hardship. They give their support to it in the special circumstances that tea is largely purchased by the working classes, who usually have no means of

checking weight of contents or of containers, and that the value of the bags or containers is usually weight for weight less than the value for tea. The committee feel that while tea is more largely consumed by the poor, coffee and cocoa (in powder) should be sold under same conditions as tea.

(e) The committee are of opinion that, while an alteration in the law in the above direction is desirable, there should be certain safeguards for vendors, especially as it is well known that many articles lose weight after being packed. The committee, therefore, recommend that a defendant charged with the offence of selling goods of short weight or measure should be entitled to acquittal if he proves that shortage is due to one or more of the following causes :—

(1) Unavoidable evaporation or unavoidable loss after packing, and in spite of due care in packing.

(2) *Bona-fide* mistake or accident, after all reasonable precautions have been taken to guard against shortages.

(3) The fraud of a servant, if the defendant lays an information, and successfully prosecutes the servant under a provision similar to that contained in Section 5 of the Margarine Act, 1887, Section 6 of the Employment of Children Act, 1903, and Section 14 (3) of the Shops Act, 1912.

(f) Specific authority should be given to inspectors of weights and measures to make purchases and to prosecute, subject to the usual powers of control on the part of the local authorities appointing them, so far as possible guarding against vexatious or unnecessary intervention by inspectors. When an inspector discovers a shortage in weight or measure, and is satisfied that the goods have been packed by a manufacturer or purchased already packed from a wholesale dealer and sold by the retailer in the same condition as when he received the same, the inspector should be empowered to prosecute such manufacturer or wholesale dealer instead of the retailer.

2. Bread. The recommendations of the committee under this part of their reference were as follows :—

(1) The Bread Acts of 1822 and 1836 to be repealed and a new Act applicable to the whole of England and Wales to be passed, re-enacting the existing law that bread shall be sold by weight only.

(2) An obligation to be laid on local authorities, who appoint inspectors under the Weights and Measures Acts, to administer the Bread Act.

(3) "Fancy Bread" to be defined, and to be exempt from the operation of the Act.

(4) All bread, when sold over the counter, to be in parcels of 1lb., or multiples of 1lb., or the actual weight of such bread to be then and there ascertained by weighing, and declared to the purchaser.

(5) All bread sold outside the shop to be sold either—

(a) In parcels of 1lb. or multiples of 1lb., or

(b) At a weight clearly guaranteed to the purchaser orally or by written or printed notice in the following form :—

The bread (or, each loaf) sold with this notice is guaranteed to weigh at least lb. oz. The purchaser is entitled to have the bread weighed on delivery, and to be informed of the exact weight of each loaf or parcel of bread delivered.

(6) Paragraphs 4 and 5 above not to apply to bread which is less than 1lb. in weight cut from a loaf, or when slices are demanded, or to bread supplied under contract to hospitals, asylums, infirmaries, or other public institutions, hotels, or restaurants, when the contract provides that the quantity supplied is to be ascertained by weighing on delivery, and the bread is for consumption within such institutions, hotels, or restaurants.

(7) Persons selling or delivering bread, whether in or outside the shop, to be obliged to provide proper weights and scales.

(8) That any sale of bread of less weight than 1lb., or a multiple of 1lb., or of less weight than that guaranteed, as the case may be, should render the seller liable to a penalty for the sale of short-weight bread : Provided that no conviction should take place in respect of the short weight of a single loaf, but on the average of not fewer than three loaves.

(9) That inspectors under the Act be empowered to purchase any bread which is on sale, or exposed for sale, or which is being carried for delivery, and when a loaf has been purchased, to weigh two other loaves to be selected by the inspector, in order to carry out the proviso in paragraph (8); and that it should be an offence for a baker or his servant to refuse to sell to an inspector any bread which is on sale, or to refuse to allow him to test the weight of two other loaves.

(10) That increased penalties should be prescribed for offences subsequent to the first.

(11) The limit of 48 hours fixed by the existing Acts for laying informations before Justices to be increased to 28 days : Provided that the baker or seller be informed of the fact that an inspection has been made, either at the time of the inspection or reasonably soon after the inspection, as a condition precedent to any subsequent proceedings which may be set on foot.

(12) A provision to be enacted similar to that contained in Section 5 of the Margarine Act (1887), and Section 6 of the Employment of Children Act (1903), and Section 6 of the Shop Hours Act (1892), empowering a defendant to lay an information against his servant, and to be discharged if he prove that his servant is at fault.

Owing to the outbreak of war no legislative action has yet been taken on this report which, like so many other things, must await more peaceful times for the realisation of its proposals.

WAR EMERGENCY WORKERS' COMMITTEE.

In the first week of the war steps were taken for the initiation of a National Committee, representative of working-class interests. Delegates

were appointed by all the principal organisations of Labour, and the Parliamentary Committee, following the lead of the United Board of the Union, appointed the secretary to attend the meetings, and to watch co-operative interests generally.

The committee has held a very large number of meetings, and has made representations to the Government on many matters of interest to Labour generally. It has, however, been chiefly useful in demonstrating the advantages which might be obtained from a properly organised union of working-class forces. A more detailed report of the work of the committee is being included in another part of the Congress report.

LOCAL RELIEF COMMITTEES.

There is no need to enter here into detailed reference to the work of the National or other War Relief Funds. Unfortunately, there is only too much reason to believe that the National Fund will require very full treatment in future reports and investigations. But right from the beginning, the arrangements for the administration of the National Fund required close attention in the interests of co-operators.

Many letters were received from societies complaining of the difficulties they were experiencing in trying to secure representation on the local relief committees. The fact that in so many towns the municipal councils are largely manned by private traders made it almost impossible to overcome the obstacles and prejudices of those in authority.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, courteously acceded to our request that he would receive a deputation when we placed before him the claims of our societies to representation. Mr. Samuel readily acknowledged the force of our case, and added that he knew from other departments than his own what valuable services the co-operative movement was rendering to the Government. He promised to do whatever was possible to support the claims of any societies submitted to him if, on investigation, the claims proved well founded. He, however, emphasised the fact that the local authorities could not be compelled to accede even to his wishes, but that in the final result the decision must rest with them. Since that date many cases have been submitted to Mr. Samuel through the official whom he appointed to deal with such cases. Each appeal has been inquired into locally by the L.G.B. inspector, and in some cases the President has used his influence personally to secure our object. The majority of the cases have been satisfactorily arranged; some have proved to be without strong support, and a few have failed owing to the obduracy of local officials who, as previously pointed out, are generally trade rivals.

THE BLYTH CASE.

A glaring attempt to victimise co-operation was made by a local committee at Blyth, which passed a resolution ruling out all applicants for relief who possessed £3 and upwards in the funds of the co-operative society.

The Blyth Co-operative Society promptly sent on to the Union particulars of the proposal, and the facts were immediately submitted to Mr. Herbert

Samuel as being beyond the powers of the local committee. The L.G.B. at once communicated with the Blyth Relief Committee, and the resolution was rescinded.

THE HIGH PRICE OF NECESSARIES.

The abnormal increase in the price of foodstuffs generally, and of wheat and coal in particular, has led to a considerable agitation in the Press. It is doubtful whether the claims made by many writers and journals have had behind them the strong public sentiment which alone can make general appeals to the Government successful. There is a strong disposition in the country to make sacrifices, and to bear hardships uncomplainingly in view of the great issues which are at stake, and of the immense suffering and bereavement which the British people, in common with so many countries, are enduring at the present time.

Moreover, the debates in the House of Commons on this subject, while they reveal the exceptionally defective information of the Government on these matters, also revealed facts which, by general consent, demonstrated the difficulties surrounding the problem which the Government was asked to tackle. The one exception was, perhaps, coal, and on that there was a fairly general agreement that the extraordinary increases in prices could not be justified by any known conditions brought about by the war. The Government, therefore, appointed a Committee of Inquiry into "The causes of the present rise in the retail price of coal sold for domestic use."

On the whole question of the increase in prices, many letters were received from our societies asking that action should be taken to induce the Government to intervene in the interests of consumers generally. The Parliamentary Committee, therefore, decided to ask the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject. Mr. Asquith replied regretting his inability to accede to our request owing to pressure of work, and asked the committee to submit its case in writing. A statement was, therefore, prepared and submitted to the Prime Minister, together with several suggestions summarised below, as to the action the committee thought it desirable should be taken by the Government.

Mr. Asquith replied thanking the committee for their memorandum, and promising to give consideration to their suggestions, which were as follows:—

1. That the actual facts as to the way in which the present high prices are computed and the profits they are yielding to shippers, merchants, and others concerned, should be fully ascertained by the Government and made public.

2. That all profits made by any parties to the transaction, which are beyond a reasonable profit under pre-war conditions, should be taxed to the fullest extent.

3. That maximum prices yielding a reasonable profit should be fixed by the Government, as in the case of sugar.

4. That if the result of these measures leads to the withholding of stocks, the Government should take the necessary steps to compel sales.

THE COAL QUESTION.

One of the most striking points submitted to the Prime Minister in our statement was a detailed report of the working of the S.S. Thrift by the Aberdeen Northern Society for the six months ending 28th February, 1915—a period covering the whole time from the commencement of the war. That report showed that while the coal merchants generally (or the ring) had raised the price of coal on account of freights to the extent of from 11s. to 14s. per ton, the Aberdeen Co-operative Society had been able to do the whole of its trade during the war at an increase in freight of 3d. per ton, and to make a profit. This information was also communicated to the committee on coal, we hope with some useful influence in their report. As we were about to complete this report the findings of the Government Committee were made public.

The evidence received by that committee seems to have discovered to them the real causes of the rise in price, but their recommendations do not seem to be the logical outcome of the facts they admit in the body of their report. They only suggest control by the Government in the event of prices not being speedily reduced by the operation of four other previous suggestions, none of which are, in the slightest degree, likely to bring about the desired result. There does not, therefore, appear to be any reason for the Government waiting any longer before taking action to control the operations of those who are so obviously exploiting the community at a time when the nation, as a whole, is making the greatest sacrifices for the common weal. The recommendations of the Government Coal Committee are as follows:—

1. Exports to neutral countries should be restricted.
2. Steps should at once be taken to consider, in consultation with the public bodies concerned, the question of the accumulation by such bodies of reserves of coal in or near London, for the use of small consumers during the next winter.
3. The rates of freight on the interned steamers should be further reduced.
4. Suitable enemy ships condemned by the Prize Court should be taken over by the Government and used for coal transport.
5. If prices do not shortly return to a reasonable level, the Government should consider a scheme for assuming control of the output of collieries during the continuance of the war.

HOME OFFICE COMMITTEE *re* DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE AND ENLISTMENT.

As part of a general inquiry in regard to all the great industries of the country, and with the object of mobilising effectively the available forces for service in the field, as well as for the manufacture of munitions for the prosecution of the war, the Home Secretary appointed a special committee to deal with the problem, so far as it affects the shop assistants and others employed in distributive trade. In view of the effect that such a committee was likely to have upon the operations of our movement, application was made to the Home Office for the inclusion of a co-operative representative,

and the Home Secretary has appointed the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee to be a member of the Government Committee. At the time of writing this report the committee is formulating its inquiries and plans, and it is hoped that the presence of our representative will facilitate matters affecting our societies.

T. TWEDDELL, Chairman.

H. J. MAY, Secretary.

22. JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

This committee has been constituted as follows, viz. :—

Representing the Co-operative Union: Messrs. W. H. Bryant, W. Dewhurst, R. R. Prynne, and H. Stuttard.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs E. Grindrod, J. W. King, W. Lander, and J. Shillito.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation: Messrs. T. Adams, R. Halstead, and A. Mann.

Owing to the outbreak of war, the work of this committee has been very largely curtailed, as it was felt to be undesirable to hold exhibitions whilst hostilities were in progress. Both the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Productive Societies fully endorse this opinion, and have decided that for the present they will not show at any exhibitions other than the one held in connection with Congress.

Since our last report, therefore, only one exhibition has been arranged under the auspices of this committee, viz., that held in connection with the Northern Section demonstration at Blyth in May, 1914. A large skating rink was used as the exhibition hall, and an admirable display was made by the exhibiting societies. The number of persons paying for admission was over 17,500, whilst, in addition, 800 delegates and between 1,000 and 2,000 children had an opportunity of ascertaining the progress which has been made by the movement in production. From the balance sheet which has been submitted to us, we learn that the total receipts, including a balance from the previous year, were £472. 16s. 3d., whilst the expenditure was £321. 18s. 5d., leaving a balance in hand of £150. 17s. 10d.

An application was received from the North-Western Sectional Board to hold an exhibition at Shipley in September, 1914, but, for the reason previously named, it was considered advisable to cancel the arrangements for same.

As soon as the war is over, the committee will again proceed with the holding of joint exhibitions when required in the various sections.

In concluding this brief report, we desire to express our deep regret at the death of Messrs. J. Shillito and A. Deans. The first named gentleman had only recently become a member of this committee, and therefore had not had

many opportunities of furthering its work. Mr. Deans was a member for several years, and always took a keen interest in its operations. We desire to record our appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to the movement.

W. LANDER, Chairman.

T. HORROCKS, Secretary.

23. JOINT COMMITTEE OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The committee during the past year was constituted as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union : Messrs. M. H. Clear, J. Lowe,
W. Gregory, J. Murdoch, and A. Whitehead.

Representing the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee :
Messrs. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., J. W. Ogden, J. A. Seddon, and
J. B. Williams.

Since last Congress this committee has not been called together, no case of dispute having been referred for its consideration.

The Amended Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the committee adopted at the Dublin Congress were to be considered at the Trades Union Congress, which usually takes place in September, but owing to the war crisis the Congress of 1914 was postponed, consequently these have not been approved by the Trades Union Section, but will be laid before the next Congress. The statutory meeting of the committee was not held under the circumstances.

Should any differences arise between co-operative societies and their trade unionist employes, the committee hope that their services may be requisitioned before any action is taken by either party which may lead to a greater difficulty in effecting a settlement. The committee is prepared to deal promptly with any matter remitted to them for consideration.

C. W. BOWERMAN, }
A. WHITEHEAD, } Joint Secretaries.

24. CO-OPERATIVE DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The committee has been constituted as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union : Messrs. M. H. Clear, G. Harris,
J. Lowe W. Gregory, and H. Stuttard.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society : Messrs. T. W. Allen,
G. Hayhurst, W. Hemingway, and T. E. Shotton.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation : Mr. R. Halstead.

One meeting of this committee has been held since last Congress, this took place on 10th December, 1914, to consider a communication received from the

Middlesbrough Co-operative Society, who were of the opinion that an attack had been made upon their society in an article contained in a well-known weekly journal. The article in question, which they considered libellous originated out of a statement made at the society's quarterly meeting by two members of the Board on behalf of the society.

The Middlesbrough Society requested the Union to take up the case and defray the cost of such action out of the Defence Funds. The committee carefully considered the request, and finally came to the conclusion that it was not a case for the Defence Committee to take up, but were of opinion that the two members named in the article should demand an apology from the publishers.

Particulars of the costs incurred in the Swansea case, report of which appeared in last year's Congress report, was submitted. The total amount paid from the Defence Fund in this case was £195.

G. HAYHURST, Chairman.

A. WHITEHEAD, Secretary.

THE CENTRAL BOARD.

25. HONORARY MEMBERS.

The following nominations have been made by the Sectional Boards of persons to be appointed as honorary members of the Central Board for the coming year. They have been approved by the United Board, and are now submitted for your confirmation.

Section.	Members.
Midland	Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.
Northern	Messrs. H. R. Bailey, W. Crooks, and T. Rule.
North-Western	Messrs. C. J. Beckett and G. Wheelhouse.
Scottish	Messrs. D. H. Gerrard and A. Meldrum.
Southern	Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, H. J. May, and H. H. Vivian.
South-Western	Messrs. A. Bullock, T. Gidley, R. R. Prynne, and C. Vaughan.

26. DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Since last Congress we have to record the death of two members of the Board: Mr. J. Lowe, who was at the time of his death a member of the North-Western Sectional Board, on which he had been the representative, appointed by the Societies in the Crewe, Macclesfield, and District Association since 1907; and Mr. L. W. Richards, who had been a member of the Western Sectional Board

since 1909. Both these gentlemen had been most devoted workers in the cause of Co-operation, and during the last two or three years held appointments on several of the most important sub-committees of the Union.

The United Board and the Sectional Boards have conveyed to their relatives sympathy and condolence, and desire to place on record an appreciation of the valuable services they have rendered to the movement.

THE SECTIONS.

27. REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS.

For full particulars and details of the work of the various sections we must refer you to their own reports; but for the purpose of bringing before your notice some of the principal matters dealt with, we give the following summary:—

(1) IRELAND.

(a) Propaganda.—Details of the work undertaken by the Propagandist Agent (Mr. Fleming) are given in the report. Also particulars relating to the audit of societies' accounts conducted by him.

(b) New Societies.—The report mentions that eight societies have been registered since last Congress, and in several other instances the prospects of forming new societies are very promising.

(c) Conferences.—Conferences have been arranged for the Northern and Southern Districts, also an Annual Joint Conference at which many of the delegates from England and Scotland attending the Dublin Congress were present, the subject for discussion being "The Ethics of Co-operation." A Special Conference of Managers and Secretaries took place in Belfast, when a paper on "The Value of Charts and Diagrams in showing the position and progress of a Co-operative Society" was read.

(2) MIDLAND.

(a) Propaganda —A special committee has been appointed to supervise the propaganda work of the section. Special work has been undertaken in connection with a number of societies with good results.

(b) Overlapping and Amalgamation.—The question of overlapping has received attention, and in one instance boundaries have been arranged between two societies; and one society in difficulties has been taken over by the Worcester Society.

(c) Convalescent Fund.—The committee appointed to administer the Convalescent Fund has issued its first annual report, which shows satisfactory results.

(d) Conferences.—Six Sectional Conferences have been held during the year, three being arranged for on the same day. The first series took place at

Nottingham, Lincoln, and Coventry, the subject for consideration being "Co-operative Education and the Sectional Choral Association." The second series were held at Peterborough, Ripley, and Walsall, when the subject for consideration was "The Central Board and the Grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild."

(e) Choral Association.—A report of the work of the Choral Association is given, which goes to show that they have been successful in their endeavours, and that the festivals arranged by them have been highly satisfactory.

(3) NORTHERN.

(a) Windy Nook Tragedy Fund.—During the year the sum of £112. 4s. had been paid out from this fund, leaving a credit balance at the end of 1914 of £794. 3s. 2d.

(b) Convalescent Home.—There has been a decrease in the income of the Gilsland Convalescent Home; nevertheless the year's working shows a profit of £185. 5s. 7½d. The home is now being used for Red Cross purposes, and at the present time there are about 300 convalescent soldiers in residence.

(c) Sectional Exhibition and Demonstration.—The Annual Demonstration and Exhibition took place last year at Blyth, and was very successful, upwards of 20,000 persons visited the exhibition.

(d) Choral Competition.—The Choral Competition took place in Newcastle when four choirs entered, in addition to the mixed voice choirs, quartette and solo competitions were arranged.

(e) Federation.—For two or three years the question of Federation has received attention, a number of societies have agreed to a uniform dividend, and a group of five societies has federated and taken over a bakery, whilst another group is considering the question, and there is every likelihood of another bakery being successfully started.

(f) Fusion of Forces.—This subject has received attention at a Sectional Conference, but a vote was not taken, the delegates being requested to bring the question before their respective committees and send in the result of the voting. There appeared to be an overwhelming majority in favour of resolution No. 3, which means they did not approve of any joint action with any outside organisation.

(4) NORTH-WESTERN.

(a) Progress.—In this section the societies report satisfactory progress notwithstanding the unfortunate war and the effect it has had on the staple trade of one of the counties.

(b) Conferences.—Two Sectional Conferences only have been held during the year—the first was held at Huddersfield at which a paper was read entitled "Ideas of Progress in Co-operation." The second which was the Annual Conference took place on 17th April at Halifax when the Sectional and District reports were considered.

(c) Secretaries' Conference.—A conference was arranged for secretaries—this

was held at Barnsley when the subject for discussion was "Co-operative Finance" as affected by the war.

(d) Joint Meeting.—The Board and representatives from the District Associations have met and at this meeting, the subjects of the grant to the Women's Guild; Amalgamation of Societies; and Co-operation with other Forces were considered.

(e) Sectional Demonstration.—Owing to the outbreak of war the usual Demonstration, Exhibition, and Choir Contests have not taken place.

(f) Boundaries.—A report of the work done by this committee is given, and it is pleasing to note that in several cases the negotiations have been successful.

(g) Amalgamation.—Efforts are being made for the amalgamation of Clay Cross and Chesterfield Societies. The City of Liverpool and Toxteth Societies; the Oldham Equitable and Lees Societies; have been amalgamated.

(h) General.—Reference is made to other matters dealt with: (1), Manchester City Council and the use of Public Parks; (2), Convalescent Homes; (3), Salesmen's Classes—withstanding the war, and many of the employes having joined the forces, classes have been held at ten different centres; (4), Week-end at Blackpool; (5), General Matters.

(5) SCOTTISH.

(a) Fifteenth Annual Scottish Conference.—This conference was held at Alloa, at which there was an attendance of 375 delegates. The Annual Reports of the Sectional Board and Conference Associations were discussed along with suggested alterations of rules governing the National Conference; also the Defence Scheme. A paper for discussion entitled "The Responsibilities of Co-operative Societies and Co-operative Employes to each other in settling such questions as Wages, Hours, and Conditions of Service" was read.

(b) Defence and Education.—Two conferences of members of the Sectional Board and representatives of the District Associations have been held to consider schemes *re* Education and Defence work.

(c) Amalgamation and Overlapping.—The question of amalgamation of societies has received considerable attention. Dalkeith and Musselburgh; Hallside and Gilbertfield societies have been amalgamated, and the Holiday Association taken over by the United Co-operative Baking Society. Several disputes of an acute nature between societies about overlapping have occurred and regret is expressed that they have not yet been successfully settled.

(d) Co-operation in Agricultural Districts.—A circular letter has been issued to persons who the Board considered might be interested, explaining the advantages that co-operation was capable of conferring on the agricultural workers, but the response was rather disappointing. A conference with the Scottish Small Landholders' Association, representatives from the Directors of the Scottish Wholesale Society, and the Sectional Board, was held in Edinburgh with a view of bringing the Scottish Small Landholders into closer touch and trading relations with the co-operative movement.

(e) Demonstration of Junior Co-operators.—Four demonstrations have been organised of Junior Co-operators and visits paid to the United Co-operative Baking Society, Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Paisley Manufacturing Society, and arrangements were made for the children to prepare essays on their visits, for which prizes were awarded.

(f) Propaganda Work.—Special propaganda work in the North of Scotland has been continued in conjunction with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the services of the propagandist agent retained.

(g) General.—Reference is made to other matters dealt with, *i.e.*, (1) Annual Fraternal Gathering and Summer School; (2) Co-operative Homes; (3) Co-operative Veterans' Association; (4) Co-operative Musical Association; and (5) Co-operative Ambulance Association.

(6) SOUTHERN.

(a) General Progress.—Reference is made to the general progress of the movement in this section, which, with one or two exceptions, is quite satisfactory.

(b) Conferences.—Five sectional conferences have been held during the year, three in London and one each at Swindon and King's Lynn, at which the following subjects were considered, *viz.* :—"The Effect of Co-operative Production on the Wage Earning Community," "Co-operative Societies and the War," "The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War," "Co-operation and Agricultural Produce," and "Railway Rates."

(c) Propaganda.—A meeting of the Board with the district secretaries and chairmen was arranged for the purpose of eliciting information as to the districts most in need of special propaganda. Hastings and Ryde being selected, the services of the Propagandist Agent (Mr. E. L. Griffiths) were requisitioned and good has resulted from his efforts.

(d) Amalgamation.—Several cases of amalgamation are reported.

(e) Overlapping.—Considerable success has attended the Board's intervention in cases of overlapping. In many cases satisfactory arrangements have been made, and three other cases are receiving attention. The question of overlapping in another form by agricultural societies is also mentioned.

(f) Convalescent Fund.—This fund has had a successful year, and now 92 societies are in membership. During 1914 subscriptions amounting to £926 were received from societies.

(g) Choral Association.—The newly-formed Co-operative Choral Association has held its first competition during the year at Alexandra Palace, when six choirs competed in the senior and nine in the junior contests.

(7) SOUTH-WESTERN.

(a) Propaganda.—The energies of the Board have been concentrated on the work of strengthening certain societies in the Devon district.

(b) Conferences.—Five sectional conferences have been held, at which the following subjects were discussed, *viz.* :—"The Relationship of Agricultural and Distributive Co-operation," "The Duty of Co-operators in the Present Situation," "Co-operators and the War," "Store Management," and "Fusion

of Forces." Considerable attention has been given to the question of district representation on the South-Western Board, and the societies were circularised, with the result that out of 75 societies, with an aggregate of 153 votes, 36 societies, with a total of 66 votes, were in favour of district representation, and two, with a total of 42 votes, were not in favour.

(c) Societies.—A new society has been registered during the year, and gives promise of being very successful. Two societies have gone into liquidation.

(d) Educational Work.—Particulars are given of the classes organised, also of the demonstration of junior co-operators at the Bristol Dépôt of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

(8) WESTERN.

(a) Propaganda.—On 4th July the annual conference of officials of the district associations and the Board was held. At this meeting arrangement of dates and subjects for discussion at conferences were made, and special attention given to the questions of amalgamation and overlapping, minimum wage, and propaganda work. The Propagandist Agent (Mr. E. L. Griffiths) has visited a number of towns in the section, and, as a result of the special propaganda work, three new societies have been formed and active steps are being taken to form two other societies.

(b) Amalgamation and Overlapping.—The question of overlapping and amalgamation has received the attention of the Board. Two amalgamations have taken place. To consider the question of overlapping a Joint Board has been formed and much good accomplished. Unfortunately, an acute case of overlapping has occurred, mention of which is made in another portion of this report.

(c) Conferences.—Four sectional conferences have been held, at which the following subjects have been discussed, viz. :—"Education," "The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War," "Co-operative Finance and the War," and "The Central Board and the Grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild."

(d) Education.—Mention is made of the Educational Association not receiving the desired support, consequently it is at present in a state of "suspended animation." Particulars are given of the classes formed and the number of students attending.

(e) General.—Reports of the Convalescent Fund Committee, the Choral Association, and the resuscitation of the Shropshire and Mid Wales District Association are given.

FINANCES OF THE UNION.

28. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

The balance sheet which appears at the end of this report gives details of the expenditure of the funds of the Co-operative Union during the financial year 1914.

Below we give a summary of the accounts showing how the receipts and expenditure compare with those of 1913.

RECEIPTS.

	1913.			1914.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and Donations	14870	9	2	15360	18	10
Sale of Publications	2012	2	3	2445	11	10
Advertising	34	5	0	37	0	0
Dividend and Interest received	40	1	9	44	16	2
" " " credited	183	15	8	203	13	7
Balance of Bank Interest, Dividend, and Commission	103	16	3	168	8	0
Rent of Rooms - Holyoake House	27	17	0	58	16	6
Appreciation of Shares—Co-operative Insurance ..	283	11	0	—		
	£17555	18	1	£18318	19	11

EXPENDITURE.

	1913.			1914.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Congress	1507	12	8	1393	6	8
United Board and Office Committee	315	8	9	315	4	5
Central Board Meeting	—			168	16	11
Joint Parliamentary Committee	214	18	8	174	14	11
Education Committee	1113	11	9	1327	0	6
Joint Propaganda Committee	186	14	0	159	4	11
Joint Exhibitions Committee	35	14	7	30	1	8
Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators	26	6	7	21	17	0
General Survey Committee	—			38	5	3
Minimum Wage Sub-committee	33	12	5	58	16	6
Rise in Prices Committee	33	14	0	10	12	8
Irish Propagandist Agents' Salary and Expenses after deducting Audit Fees received, £74. 1s.	192	12	5	184	10	9
Conferences and Meetings attended on behalf of United Board	234	6	11	247	1	10
Foreign Congresses and International Alliance	235	15	0	256	4	8
Subscriptions and Grants	595	0	0	280	0	0
Legal Advice	237	10	5	235	0	7
General Printing	738	14	8	750	0	0
Printing—Publications, &c.	1702	1	6	2487	2	3
Central Office Expenses	3045	18	11	3801	2	6
Law Cases and Opinions	—			476	9	9
Gray Memorial	104	8	0	—		
Joint Committee on Agriculture	11	4	3	7	2	5
Defence Committee	2	4	11	10	13	4
Co-operation and other forces	51	15	10	—		
Pioneers Memorial Committee	8	3	3	4	10	1
Hughes and Neale Trustees	—			36	6	8
	£10577	9	6	£12474	6	3

Sectional Expenses:—

	1913.				1914.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Ireland	102	2	6	....	123	12	2
Midland	482	17	10	....	492	18	8
Northern	670	6	11	....	607	15	10
North-Western	1106	15	2	....	1187	17	9
Scottish	928	2	10	....	883	9	6
Southern	1073	0	7	....	1058	2	7
South-Western	351	18	11	....	224	17	6
Western	277	10	2	....	272	1	3
	<hr/> 4992 14 11				<hr/> 4850 15 8		
	<hr/> 15570 4 5				<hr/> 17325 1 6		
Balance of Income over Expenditure.....	*1985 13 8				†993 18 5		
	<hr/> £17555 18 1				<hr/> £18318 19 11		

* Less Accounts owing at end of year, £635. 1s. 6d.

Plus 1913 Accounts paid during 1914.

29. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES.

We are pleased to report an increase of £490. 9s. 8d. in the income of the Union from contributions as compared with the previous year; this increase is considered very satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the contributions received from the societies in the various sections, and also the amounts received from publications, advertisements, dividends, and interest:—

	1912.					1913.					1914			
	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		
Subscriptions from Sections:—														
Ireland	80	4	2	..		89	6	10	..		105	15	7	
Midland	1,711	8	4	..		1,852	0	6	..		1,964	11	10	
Northern	1,592	17	10	..		1,668	15	11	..		1,692	18	4	
North-Western	5,413	18	8	..		6,386	17	9	..		6,380	16	8	
Scottish	2,047	19	2	..		2,144	6	10	..		2,231	13	0	
Southern	1,689	17	1	..		1,744	13	2	..		1,960	16	8	
South-Western	496	7	9	..		540	12	1	..		537	13	11	
Western	420	4	6	..		443	16	1	..		486	12	10	
	<hr/>					<hr/>					<hr/>			
	13,452	17	6			14,870	9	2			15,360	18	10	
Other Receipts—														
Publications, Adver-														
tising, Dividends,														
Interest, &c.	1,844	3	1			2,685	8	11			2,958	1	1	
	<hr/>					<hr/>					<hr/>			
	£15,297	0	7			£17,555	18	1			£18,318	19	11	

(b) BOOKS.

"Co-operative Auditing." B. Tetlow.

"Text-Book for Apprentices and Junior Employés." R. J. Wilson.

"Co-operation for All." Percy Redfern.

(c) PAMPHLETS, &c.

Leaflets.

"A Few Reasons why every Working Man should be a Co-operator."

"Co-operation as a means of the Masses acquiring Capital."

"Suggestions for Summer Work for Women's Guilds and Education Committees."

"Co-operation in Advance of Public Opinion."

Pamphlets.

Prize Essay Paper, "Co-operative Production: Its Ethical Basis," by G. Williamson.

"Our Food Supplies and How to Increase Them: An Opportunity for Co-operative Production," by G. Thorpe.

"Co-operation in Belgium Before the War," by E. Rennison.

GENERAL MATTERS.

33. MINIMUM WAGE CAMPAIGN.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

At the first meeting of the Central Education Committee following the Dublin Congress, we were reappointed to continue our educational work as a Minimum Wage Sub-committee. During the year we have held three meetings, but little active propaganda has been possible in consequence of other and more important matters engaging the attention of the movement. We have, however, issued three new leaflets, viz.—

Leaflet No. 5. "The Economics of Wages, with Special Reference to the Minimum Wage." Writer, Professor Hall, M.A.

Leaflet No. 6. "The Attitude of Co-operators towards the Wage Question." Writer, Professor Hall, M.A.

Leaflet No. 7. "The Minimum Wage: A Contribution towards Greater Efficiency." Writer, Mr. T. W. Mercer.

A fourth leaflet by Mr. J. Lucas, M.A., entitled "The Minimum Wage in Operation," is in preparation.

During the year we have had under consideration the question of piece-workers in relation to the Congress minimum wages scale. After full consideration we are of opinion that the Congress scale of wages was not intended to apply to piece-workers, who should receive not less than the recognised trade union rate for the particular industry in which they are engaged.

As a result of careful inquiry we are convinced that the special work for which this sub-committee was appointed has now been accomplished. No doubt there are still co-operative societies which do not yet pay the young persons in their employment the rates of wages approved by Congress but the principle of the minimum wage is now generally accepted throughout the movement, and the Congress scale has been adopted, wholly or in part, by the great majority of societies. We desire to point out, however, that the responsibility of co-operators to the young persons they employ is not confined to the payment of good wages. Co-operators, as employers, are under a moral obligation to see that the general conditions of employment in the movement are above reproach from any point of view. As masters, it is their bounden duty to teach every boy and girl they engage a useful trade. The movement has, as yet, made no serious attempt to train its young employes in accordance with the Central Education Committee's scheme for the training of co-operative apprentices, notwithstanding the fact that thousands of young persons are now serving the movement in many capacities, for whose apprenticeship no trade union or other organisation offers any guidance. Much educational work is still necessary to rouse co-operators to a full sense of their responsibility in this respect, and we are convinced that this work should now be commenced by the Central Educational Committee. We, therefore, recommend that a Co-operative Employment Sub-committee should be appointed specially charged with the duties following, and that it be empowered to take such steps as may be necessary to—

(1) Assist co-operative committees to efficiently discharge their duty as employers by training all young persons in their service in useful and recognised trades.

(2) Progressively raise the general conditions of co-operative employment in accordance with co-operative principle; and

(3) Continue from time to time, as may be necessary, to bring the question of the minimum wage before the notice of societies.

On behalf of the Central Education Committee,

Signed,

W. R. RAE (Chairman),	} Minimum Wage Sub-committee.
Mrs. F. M. EDDIE,	
J. LUCAS,	
T. W. MERCER,	

34. AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION AND ITS RELATION TO DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

(See Appendix VI., page 221.)

By resolution of the Newcastle Congress a joint conference committee was brought into existence, with a view to bringing into closer touch the producer upon the land and the consumer, and to define a policy of co-operative distribu-

tion and supply in organised agriculture, with the idea of formulating working arrangements.

This committee, which has existed since that time, has consisted of representatives from the Co-operative Union, the Co-operative Wholesale Societies, and the joint boards for trade and organisation (as representing the Agricultural Co-operative Societies of the United Kingdom) met during 1913; and came to the conclusion that much better work might be done if the committee were sectionalised, and sub-committees appointed for England and Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, each to deal with the special requirements of its particular country.

The committee for England and Wales has been formed, but those for Ireland and Scotland have not yet been arranged, nevertheless the recommendation of the joint conference will not be overlooked, and when the time is ripe for the formation of these joint sub-committees, the Irish and Scottish Sectional Boards will be quite prepared to move.

The joint sub-committee for England and Wales has met on two occasions during the year. A full report of the proceedings at those conferences will be found in the Appendix, and as there are one or two matters of importance still under consideration by the conference committee, the approval of Congress is desired that the committee should be continued for another year as at present constituted.

35. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER FORCES.

Acting in accordance with the resolution passed at Dublin, the United Board have endeavoured to ascertain the views of societies on this important question. In order that definite information might, if possible, be obtained, an official statement was prepared giving a brief history as to how this question came up for discussion in the movement. The various Sectional Boards and District Executives were then asked to convene conferences at which the statement above mentioned was read, and three resolutions contained in the statement were submitted, a vote to be taken for and against each. In addition to the conferences being asked to discuss the matter each society member of the Union has also been requested to vote on the resolutions previously mentioned, and which will be found at the end of this report. Owing to the short time available for this to be done it has not been possible for many of the societies to submit the question to their members, therefore the committees of such societies have expressed their opinions upon the resolutions. We regret to state, however, that whilst 1,294 societies were communicated with, only 305 have sent in replies. This is very unsatisfactory.

In order that the delegates may have complete knowledge of all that has transpired on this subject we print below a copy of the statement referred to, together with a summary of the voting at conferences and by the societies. We also print the scheme for the formation of a United and Co-operative Labour Board, on which Congress is now asked to vote for its adoption or otherwise.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The question of co-operation with other forces did not take a concrete form before the Portsmouth Congress in 1912. Previous to that time all connection with other organised forces was in the nature of an interchange of friendly greetings at annual and other important Congresses and conferences, but at Portsmouth, in the discussion of a paper on another subject, a speaker introduced the question of an approach to the trade-unionists of the country with the object of arranging a conference at which the then present unrest could be considered together.

This action, which was quite unofficial, and to a very great degree unexpected, led to a considerable amount of correspondence both to the Union offices directly and through the Co-operative Press indirectly. So continuous and general did this discussion become that the United Board consulted the sections, and as a result of their decision decided to invite six representatives each from the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee and the Labour Party to meet an equal number appointed by and from the United Board at an informal and entirely non-committal conference, to discuss the possibilities of joint action.

Both parties accepted the invitation, and the conference was held in Holyoake House, Manchester, on 8th February, 1913, when the extent to which the conference could be expected to proceed was made quite clear to the representatives present. It was explained that what was desired was a discussion on the question in a free and easy manner, with the distinct understanding that the findings of the conference must be considered to be subject to the consideration and decision of the bodies represented at the conference. There is not the slightest doubt but that the position was thoroughly understood and accepted by all parties.

The following items were suggested for consideration, viz. :—

1. How best can the forces of the Co-operative Movement, the Trade Union and Labour Movements, be utilised to raise the economic status of the people?

2. Can the capital of the Trade Union Movement be invested in the Co-operative Movement to greater advantage to the workers, giving all reasonable security and at the same time gradually placing in the hands of the workers to a much greater extent the control of the sources of supply, production, and distribution?

3. How far can the organisations named render assistance to each other in their propaganda and educational work?

4. Can a practical scheme be devised whereby the Co-operative Movement may be able to render greater assistance to the Labour forces in time of industrial disputes?

After a lengthy discussion, in which practically all the representatives took part, the following resolution was carried unanimously :—

That this joint conference of representatives of the Co-operative Union, the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee,

and the National Labour Party, is of opinion that, in order to assist in the promotion of the social and economic conditions of the people, it is advisable that there should be closer mutual effort—educational and practical—between the three sections represented at the conference. Further, that this conference be adjourned to enable the three sections represented to formulate proposals for submission to the next conference, and eventually to the constituent bodies of the parties represented.

It was further decided that the conference should resume its deliberations on the 30th May, and that meantime there should be an exchange of proposals to be drawn up by each section of the conference, so that the various suggestions might be considered by the members before the meeting.

A full statement of the proceedings up to this point, including a list of the *personnel* of the conference and an *épitomé* of the proceedings, was submitted to the Aberdeen Congress, in May, 1913, not necessarily for discussion, but with an implied suggestion that the matter should lie over to the Congress of 1914, with a view of the submission of definite proposals of one sort or other. The question was, however, taken up by Congress, and resolutions endorsing the action of the United Board and others criticising the same were forthcoming. Ultimately the following resolution was adopted by Congress, viz. :—

That this Congress, whilst approving of concerted action with trade unions and other organised bodies for raising the status of Labour, cannot sanction union with the political Labour Party; and that the Central Board be instructed to strictly maintain the neutrality of the movement in respect of party politics, so that political dissension in our ranks may be avoided.

The adjourned conference met on 30th May, 1913, as it was considered that the foregoing resolution did not debar the meeting taking place so long as no union with any political party was entered into, the conference itself not having the power to enter into any undertaking of a binding character.

At this meeting the proposals of the various sections were considered, and it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the constituent bodies represented the formation of a permanent Joint Committee, with the suggested constitution which appears in the Appendix to this statement, and which must of necessity receive the approval of the constituent bodies before it can be considered to be acceptable.

Owing to the divergent views expressed through the columns of the *Co-operative News*, the United Board decided that no further action should be taken until Congress had had an opportunity of discussing the question, and it was thought that the best means to achieve this end was to submit to the Congress the above suggested regulations without expressing an opinion either for or against.

These were presented to the Congress held in Dublin, but as a resolution for adjournment was adopted, the question was not discussed. This resolution reads as follows :—

That the proposals contained in the report of the Central Board re "Co-operation with Other Forces," be adjourned to the next Congress to allow time for the matter to be submitted to the members and to ascertain their views. Meanwhile, this Congress instructs the Central Board to strictly observe, in spirit as well as in letter, the resolution of the Aberdeen Congress resolving to "maintain the neutrality of the movement in respect of party politics; not to join in conferences with political parties; not to be officially represented at gatherings of political parties; and not to employ co-operative men or money to the advancement of the Labour Party or political organisations or movements."

The Central Board of the Co-operative Union has since Dublin Congress held a meeting at which the above resolution was considered, and it was decided to submit this statement for discussion, during the present Congress year, at the various district conferences, so as to comply with the wishes of Congress and ascertain the views of members of societies in the Union.

With a view, as expressed at the outset, of ascertaining the opinion of each society represented at the conferences, and in order to be able to report to next Congress as closely as possible in harmony with the desire of the movement, the Union wish this statement to be read and discussed at the earliest possible conference in each District Association; and the following resolutions to be submitted, in order, that *a vote may be taken for and against each*, the results to be forwarded through the Sectional Secretaries to the Central Office for classification and enumeration:—

1. That this Conference approves the formation of a Joint Co-operative and Labour Board, on lines similar to those suggested in the Appendix to this statement, and recommends that the constitution of the same be brought before the next Congress.

2. That this Conference is in favour of a Joint Board as suggested, but to consist only of representatives from the Trade Unions and the Co-operative Movement, with a constitution to be brought before the next Congress.

3. That this Conference does not approve of any joint action with any other outside organisation, with the exception of the interchange of friendly greetings as heretofore.

APPENDIX.

PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE.

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS.

NAME.

United Co-operative and Labour Board.

REPRESENTATION.

Co-operative Union, 3; Co-operative Wholesale, 2; Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, 1; Trades Union Congress, 3; Labour Party, 3.

OFFICIALS.

Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary, who shall act as an Emergency Committee.

OBJECTS.

1. To promote a better understanding, and, where possible, a closer working agreement, and the carrying out of a joint programme for educational and practical purposes without in any way interfering with the separate and distinct functions of each constituent body.

2. The preparation and distribution of suitable literature, with the view of influencing the officials and members of the Labour Movement to take a more decided and active interest in co-operation, and for influencing the officials and members of the Co-operative Movement to become members of their respective trade organisations.

3. To influence friendly and cordial relationships between all branches of the Co-operative Movement and their employés, so that all differences as to the conditions of service may be mutually and satisfactorily adjusted before any cessation of labour takes place. (See Note 1.)

4. To see how far it is practically possible for the surplus capital of the respective movements to be utilised for the promotion and development of co-operative enterprise, and from time to time to make recommendations thereon.

5. To examine the facilities for banking now offered by the Co-operative Movement, and to see how far these could be extended and improved, or made more adaptable to working-class requirements, with the view to encouraging trade unions to make their investments and do their banking business in connection with the Co-operative Movement.

6. To consider how far it is desirable and possible to ensure the unrestricted distribution of food supplies, or the payment of benefit during important trade disputes by issuing through the various branches of the Co-operative Movement food coupons, or loans on the security of trade union assets, thereby obviating the necessity for the union realising investments at a period that might involve serious loss to the funds.

7. To organise special conferences whenever necessary with a view to influencing public opinion in support of questions affecting the social life of the people, but only when such questions have been considered—and a definite policy decided upon—by the majority of the representatives present at the previous Annual Congress of the Co-operative Movement.

8. To secure an interchange of fraternal greetings at the annual conferences of the three sections, generally to advise on points affecting any of the constituent bodies, and to act as the medium through which the Co-

operative Movement will convey to the Labour Party its desires with regard to the Industrial and Provident Societies Bill and similar questions.

STATUTORY MEETINGS.

A statutory meeting of the United Board will be held half-yearly. Special meetings may be called by the Emergency Sub-committee. The statutory meetings shall be movable in order to provide an opportunity for propaganda in the centres where they may be held.

NOTE 1.—The proviso in clause 3 of the objects is not intended to interfere in any way with the work of the existing Joint Committee, or to weaken its influence in the settlement of disputes after they have begun.

VOTING AT CONFERENCES.

	RESOLUTION 1.		RESOLUTION 2.		RESOLUTION 3.	
	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.
Irish Section	1	55	15	48	54	13
Midland Section	50	173	86	134	185	90
*Northern Section .....	..	..	..	..	..	..
North-Western Section..	27	204	32	187	211	38
†Scottish Section.	202	210	113	166	180	185
Southern Section	80	237	214	99	92	229
South-Western Section..	99	9	5	102	5	101
Western Section	5	17	12	12	13	12
Total	464	905	477	748	740	668

* No vote taken at Conferences.

† In one district the voting was not carried out as per instructions—the result obtained being 101 in favour of No. 1, and 33 in favour of No. 2.

VOTING BY COMMITTEES OF SOCIETIES.

	RESOLUTION 1.		RESOLUTION 2.		RESOLUTION 3.	
	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.
Irish Section .....	..	..	..	..	1	..
Midland Section	1	..	9	..	18	..
Northern Section	6	..	2	..	35	..
North-Western Section..	4	..	8	..	76	..
Scottish Section	9	..	..	..	14	..
Southern Section	7	..	14	..	23	..
South-Western Section..	8	..	1	..	4	..
Western Section	3	..	7	..	7	..
Total	38	..	41	..	178	..

VOTING BY MEMBERS OF SOCIETIES.

	RESOLUTION 1.		RESOLUTION 2.		RESOLUTION 3.	
	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.
Irish Section .....	..	20	7	26	20	..
Midland Section	24	71	66	79	88	49
Northern Section	161	151	76	122	152	52
North-Western Section..	52	81	48	54	76	44
Scottish Section	253	113	111	134	160	178
Southern Section	27	173	47	153	156	35
South-Western Section..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Section	96	250	246	56	229	201
Total	613	859	601	624	881	559

SUMMARY OF VOTING.

	RESOLUTION 1.		RESOLUTION 2.		RESOLUTION 3.	
	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.
At Conferences	464	905	477	748	740	668
By Committees of Societies	38	..	41	..	178	..
By Members of Societies	613	859	601	624	881	559
Totals..	1115	1764	1119	1372	1799	1227

In view of the opinion expressed by the votes of societies and at conferences (a summary of which is given above) the Central Board recommend to Congress that no further action be taken on the question of "Co-operation with other Forces."

36. ROCHDALE PIONEERS.

At the last two Congresses the question has been under consideration of perpetuating in some form or other the memory of the original pioneers, and at Dublin Congress a resolution authorising the issue of an appeal for the sum of £2,000 was carried.

The appeal has not yet been made, as at the outbreak of the war the sub-committee dealing with the question had not definitely decided the form the memorial should take, but were then in negotiation with the owners of the original Toad Lane shop with a view to its purchase. We regret that it has now been found impossible to carry out this idea.

The graves of twenty of the original pioneers have now been traced, and an estimate obtained of the cost for putting these into proper repair; to accomplish this and to keep them in repair a capital sum of £500 will be required.

The committee will, when the time is opportune, make the appeal in accordance with the Congress resolution, and in the meantime consider the form the

memorial should take, and this will be duly notified and submitted for the approval of Congress.

37. CONCILIATION BOARDS.

In our report to Congress last year, under the head of "Co-operative Employés," particulars were given of certain negotiations which had taken place between the Co-operative Union and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, with the object of a scheme of Conciliation Boards being mutually adopted to deal with any friction or disputes which might take place between co-operative societies and their employés. It would appear to be eminently desirable that some machinery should be set up within the movement which should be representative of employers and employed to deal with questions affecting the welfare of both, and acting in accordance with the resolution passed by the Dublin Congress, as follows:—

That this Congress, believing in the principles of Conciliation and Arbitration in industrial disputes, requests the United Board of the Co-operative Union to arrange for the establishment of a Board to be composed of an equal number of representatives from Societies' Committees on the one hand, and Co-operative Employés on the other, to whom any disputes relating to hours, wages, or conditions of labour within the movement may be referred. Also that, in the event of failure to arrive at an agreement by this means, provision be made for the question or questions in dispute to be submitted to some person or persons to be mutually accepted by the parties to the dispute, whose decision shall be binding on all concerned.

The Union immediately after Congress sought an interview with representatives of the A.U.C.E. Eventually a draft scheme for the appointment of Conciliation Boards was adopted, and it was mutually agreed that same should be submitted for approval to the constituents of each body. The draft scheme has been accepted by the annual meeting of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, and Congress is now asked to approve the scheme on behalf of the Co-operative Union. The scheme is as follows:—

SCHEME FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONCILIATION BOARDS.

INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS AND WORK.

1. Matters of wages, hours, and general conditions of employment, other than legal matters and claims under the law of the land, shall be dealt with in the first instance by the Union representatives of the employés and the Board of Boards of the society or societies concerned.

REFERENCE TO CONCILIATION.

2. Failing settlement by above-mentioned methods, matters in dispute shall, if both sides are agreed, be referred to conciliation, and, if necessary, arbitration.

CONCILIATION MACHINERY.

3. The following conciliation machinery shall be set up :—

- (a) District Conciliation Boards.
- (b) A National Conciliation Board.

DISTRICT CONCILIATION BOARDS.

4. The District Conciliation Boards shall consist of representatives of co-operative societies (including one from the Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union Limited) and of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés on behalf of its members in equal numbers, an equal number on each side to vote. The Boards shall appoint their own chairman at each meeting, who shall each have only his one vote as a Board member. In the event of the District Boards being unable to agree upon matters before them, the questions shall be referred to the National Conciliation Board.

NATIONAL CONCILIATION BOARD.

5. The National Conciliation Board shall consist of representatives of co-operative societies (including two representatives appointed by the United Board of the Co-operative Union Limited) and of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés on behalf of its members in equal numbers, an equal number on each side to vote, with an independent chairman agreed upon by both parties, or, in case of non-agreement, appointed by the Board of Trade. In the event of the Board being unable to agree upon any matters remitted from the District Boards, or upon any national questions submitted direct to the National Board, the independent chairman shall give a decision upon the points in dispute, which shall be binding on both parties.

OTHER REPRESENTATION.

6. Where any other trade union, with members directly affected in any case, seeks representation on the Conciliation Boards, such representation may be allowed proportionately on its membership, provided such membership is equal to at least 25 per cent of the number of employés affected in the society or societies concerned.

REGISTRATION.

7. The conciliation machinery set up shall be registered under the Conciliation Act, 1896.

RESOLUTION.—

That this Congress approves the scheme now submitted for the appointment of Conciliation Boards, and instructs the United Board, in conjunction with the Executive of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés and other trades unions interested, to set up the necessary machinery to bring it into operation as early as possible.

38. GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY.

The following resolution was passed at the Dublin Congress :—

That this Congress recognising the importance of efficiency and

economy in its administrative work, and having a strong conviction that the progress of the movement might be greatly accelerated, calls for a general survey of the whole field of co-operative activities from its three main features, viz., Education, Production, and Distribution; and, having due regard to their relative value, assign to each one its special sphere of action, and thereby give to the movement generally that solidarity and flexibility so obviously lacking at present, and therefore instructs the Central Board to appoint a Special Committee to consider and report in terms of this resolution.

In accordance with the instruction contained in this resolution the Central Board, at a special meeting held in Manchester on 19th September, 1914, decided that the committee should consist of eighteen members, ten of whom should be elected by the United Board; they also invited the following bodies to appoint representatives:—The English Co-operative Wholesale Society, 2; Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, 2; the Co-operative Productive Federation, 2; and the English and Scottish Women's Guilds one each.

The English Co-operative Wholesale Society, however, declined to appoint representatives; the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society appointed two members of their Board, but since the first meeting of the Special Committee these have been withdrawn. The members constituting the committee at present are as follows:—

Representing the Co-operative Union.—Messrs. G. Bisset, W. H. Bryant, W. T. Charter, R. Fleming, A. W. Golightly, W. Gregory, W. Millerchip, J. Pollitt, W. R. Rae, and W. H. Watkins.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation.—Messrs. R. Halstead and A. Mann.

Representing the English Women's Guild.—Miss M. Ll. Davies.

Representing the Scottish Women's Guild.—Mrs. M. Hunter.

The committee met on 19th December, 1914, in Manchester, and considered the terms of reference remitted to them by the Central Board, which are as follows:—

SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT UPON THE EFFICIENCY OF THE MOVEMENT.

DISTRIBUTION.

(a) The organisation, administration, and policies of the *individual* societies and the extent to which undue importance is attached to dividend earning; a comparison with Continental methods.

(b) The need for more concerted action amongst individual societies towards securing greater utilisation of existing facilities and the prevention of overlapping.

(c) The extent to which, and the proposed methods by which, such action should be supplemented by measures aiming at securing greater control over individual societies by the Co-operative Union.

PRODUCTION.

(a) The place of the Co-operative Wholesale Society as an organisation for production and the possibility of development.

(b) The possibility of a more suitable utilisation of surplus funds than obtains at present; and more especially, the desirability of the purchase of land at home and abroad to ensure the supply of raw material.

(c) The organisation of the Productive Associations, and the source and control of their capital funds; the advantages, or otherwise, of an increase in their numbers; their relationship to the distributive societies and the Co-operative Union. The lack of co-ordination between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Productive Associations; the possibility and desirability of providing for greater and more direct control by the movement over all forms of co-operative production.

THE PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The degree to which its recent progress has been satisfactory in respect of—

(a) General development;

(b) Geographical distribution and extension;

(c) Inclusion of diverse economic classes; the possibility of accelerating the progress of the movement by a more vigorous and intelligently directed educational and propagandist policy, and by greater unity of action through federation or other means; the formation of definite proposals to this end.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES AND THE CONSUMER.

The position of workers of various types in the co-operative movement, as compared with outside employment in respect of wages, hours, overtime, holidays, security of tenure, possibilities of advancement, indirect advantages and disadvantages. The adequacy and suitability of existing means towards the settlement of disputes between employes and (a) Productive Societies; (b) Distributive Societies. The relationship of the co-operative movement to trade-unionism.

THE FUNCTION OF CO-OPERATION IN THE COMMUNITY.

The formulation, in the light of experience and modern social conditions, of a statement as to the legitimate claims and aspirations of the co-operative movement as a factor in society, and the steps necessary to make these aspirations effective, and, in particular, whether co-operative production should be extended to markets outside co-operative distribution; the desirability of, and necessary steps for, securing greater development, and their closer connection with agricultural co-operation, &c.

EDUCATION.

1. Definition and codification of the principles on which co-operation is based: How far it is agreed that principle is stronger in associated effort than immediate economic benefits (in this connection the British and Continental basis should be computed and compared).

2. To what extent the dissemination of the principles referred to in (1) is being carried out.

(a) By Societies.—The value of work being done by societies in the name of education should be carefully examined. The administration of social funds and the nature of effort to be made.

(b) By the Union.—The work of the committees on education, propaganda, production, and exhibitions should be carefully examined: the importance of their correlation and linking up.

3. The work of guilds and kindred organisations—managers, secretaries, and other associations, and their work defined.

4. The reason why the growth of co-operative effort is not so rapid as heretofore, and whether it is being retarded by inside causes.

(a) The nature of future propaganda—propaganda agents, their work and qualifications.

At the first meeting it was resolved that the committee should be divided into four sub-committees, each having its own special ground of work, and that these sub-committees should report periodically to the full committee. The sub-committees are (a) Constitution and Administration; (b) Distributive; (c) Productive; (d) Education.

The committee is not in a position at present to make any report to Congress.

39. WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEES.

(a) WAR EMERGENCY: WORKERS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Owing to the crisis arising out of the declaration of war, a conference was held in London on August 5th, 1914, for the purpose of establishing, under the above title, a committee to deal with all questions affecting the welfare of the industrial community.

It is the most representative National Committee ever appointed in the interests of the working classes, combining as it does the labour, trade-unionist, socialist, women's, and co-operative movements. Mrs. M. A. Gasson and Mr. B. Williams represent the Co-operative Union; Mr. H. J. May, the Joint Parliamentary Committee; Miss Margaret Bondfield, the Women's Guild; Mr. W. H. Brown, the Stratford Educational Committee.

One of the earliest successes the committee achieved was the suspension of the voluntary work initiated by the Queen's Fund, and the five women members of the Workers' National Committee were specially appointed on the Queen's Committee for the purpose of advising upon schemes of women's employment.

A considerable amount of correspondence with which the officials of the Workers' National Committee have had to deal has been concerned with the co-option of trade-unionist, co-operative and women members to local representative committees in connection with the National Relief Fund. In numerous cases the committee's representations have been successful.

One of the most useful actions of the Workers' Committee was the publication of a pamphlet for the guidance of Labour members on the local representative committees. Over 7,000 copies were circulated gratis to the local movements throughout the country, including municipal councillors and such members on local representative committees as were known to the officials. At the first meeting of the Workers' Committee, resolutions were passed with respect to the hardships that were likely to accrue to persons holding Hire Purchase Agreements and would possibly be subject to distraint for rent as a result of the distress they would suffer consequent upon the war. Representations were made to the Government on the subject, and ultimately provisions covering such cases were included in the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act.

Specially drafted memoranda dealing with the Provisions of Meals Act were circulated to all local Labour bodies as well as Labour councillors throughout the kingdom. In several districts—London, Cardiff, Huddersfield, and Hull among them—the provisions of the Act were immediately put into operation, and in some instances children are being given three meals a day for seven days a week.

As a result of members of the Workers' Committee being included on the executive committee of the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund, and the Government committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress, considerable pressure was exerted to secure the adoption of a uniform scale of relief for civil distress. The Government committee's first proposals (which were only given publicity as the result of the Workers' Committee's activities) laid down a scale which was altogether inadequate. The Workers' Committee adopted a scale based on the new separation allowance for military and naval dependents as issued by the Government, allowing a maximum of 25s. for a family of five. After considerable controversy, and a joint meeting of the National Relief Fund and the Government committee, a "typical" scale, which allows 16s. 6d. for a family of five, has been issued for the guidance of local representative committees. The members of the committee on the National Relief Fund Executive also fought for and secured equal treatment for unmarried wives by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association.

In the early days of the war, when voluntary knitting and shirt-making schemes, &c., were being adopted by good-intentioned people throughout the country, the committee published a strong protest against the economic damage thus being caused, and secured the suspension of certain schemes which were being carried out by the children in London County Council schools. Similar action has been taken in connection with a scheme promoted by the Grand Duke Michael of Russia. The Central Committee of Women's Employment, who have been inundated with requests from women for work of this and similar kinds, recorded their deprecation of this latter proposal. Their protest was endorsed by the Workers' National Committee, and it has been circulated by the Board of Education to the education authorities throughout the country.

The committee adopted a strong attitude with respect to Military and Naval Pensions, and organised conferences of all Labour bodies (including co-operators) at London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester,

Newcastle, Norwich, Plymouth, and Portsmouth. Its action has been justified by the issue of the new scale of pensions and payments to dependents, which is a considerable improvement on those previously obtaining.

A sub-committee was appointed to deal with War Office and Naval Contracts. The inquiries of this committee revealed some gross derelictions on the part of contractors, and actions were consequently taken by Government Departments which resulted in considerable saving to the nation and better conditions for the troops.

A considerable amount of attention was given to the pressing question of the rise in food and coal prices. A sub-committee prepared reports in which prominence was given to the advantages of trading with co-operative societies. There can be no doubt that if the original recommendations of the committee had been acted upon by the Government, the prices of foodstuffs might have been kept at a much lower level than they have unfortunately attained. The reports issued by the committee proved conclusively that increases were artificially engineered and were not due to real shortage of supplies, and recommended that the Government should take steps to regulate, and, if necessary, commandeer the stocks of coal and wheat in this country. The debate in the House of Commons added nothing to the facts contained in the reports. The total result of the agitation and the debate in the House has confirmed the committee in the belief that ownership of raw materials and their sources of origin by the co-operative movement would have been an obstacle to speculators. Conferences were organised and resolutions of protest at the Government's inaction were passed in all the great centres of industry.

Shortly after the reports were issued the Government appointed a committee to take evidence and deal with the prices of coal. The well-known co-operator, Mr. J. J. Dent, was a member of this committee in his capacity as an official of the Labour department of the Board of Trade. The report issued by the committee confirmed, in almost every particular, the conclusions arrived at by the War Emergency Committee. It advised that if it was found necessary to provide against threatened high prices during the coming summer and winter, Government control should be exercised over the whole of the supplies for the duration of the war.

The wages of farm labourers, and the unscrupulous action of farmers in influencing education authorities to exempt children under 14 from attendance at school in order to work on farms, called for attention, and a sub-committee was appointed to draw up a report. Subsequently, a deputation waited upon Sir Harry Verney (President of the Board of Agriculture), who made quite clear his dislike of the attempt to employ child labour on farms, but could not give any assurances as to the employment of women, or the wages that would be paid to them.

The above is only the briefest possible *résumé* of the Workers' Committee's activities.

MARY A. GASSON, }
B. WILLIAMS, } Co-operative Union.

HENRY J. MAY, Secretary, Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(b) CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

(Queen's Work for Women Fund.)

Immediately following the declaration of war a new economic factor presented itself, the unemployment of thousands of women and girls.

To cope with the situation a committee of women was appointed by Mr. Herbert Samuel (president, Local Government Board), to consider schemes for the provision of work for women and girls unemployed on account of the war.

The five representatives of organised women on the Workers' War Emergency Committee, with the approval of H.M. the Queen, were appointed on this committee.

All schemes devised and administered are subject to the approval of the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress and the executive committee of the National Relief Fund.

The committee's great object has been to keep women employed under normal economic conditions and to improve their skill in the particular trade to which they were attached. Throughout their operations the committee have realised that it is better that workers should be self-maintaining than dependent upon relief, even when that relief is given in the form of work. To carry out this principle, as far as possible, unemployed firms and workers have been advised and assisted in the adaptation of their machinery to new and imperative national needs.

Government orders were obtained for firms adversely affected by the war and also for workrooms organised by the committee on a self-supporting basis.

H.M. the Queen entrusted the committee with the purchase of woollen belts to form part of the "Queen's Gifts to the Troops." To do this, orders were placed for wool with spinners whose staffs were only partially occupied, and the actual making of the belts provided employment for other workers of similar firms. The yarn was obtained from carpet-making firms who were suffering severely from the war. Many small firms and dressmakers, through the committee acting on their behalf, have been able to retain their employes at the usual if not increased remuneration by the making of army shirts, flannel body belts for the French and British armies, and millions of pairs of army grey socks.

Consideration has been given and investigations made regarding numerous new trades, especially the making of toys, artificial flowers, baskets, gloves, Austrian rugs, chairs, the cottage-weaving industry, &c., but the result in most cases was not favourable to taking on the work. Two schemes have been financed by the committee, the fruit-preserving and pulping at Studley College, and the second, an experiment in the employment of working girls on the land at Radlett. The girls have taken to the work in a very satisfactory manner, and the result up to date points to a permanent success. Another scheme to train girls in intensive poultry farming is under consideration.

In collaboration with the Women's Sub-committee of the Local Relief Committees, six experimental workrooms have been opened in various parts of London and at Cradley Heath, and are employing from 600 to 700 women and

girls. At Kingsway Hall, a special workroom has been opened for unemployed women and girls usually employed in the printing trade. The main work done is the making of various kinds of clothing, and remodelling of old clothes. Cradles made from banana crates have been well turned out, and fireless cookers have also been made.

All articles made are distributed through approved sources to persons who have little or no purchasing power.

To improve the industrial skill of the workers, arrangements have been made in some places for the women to attend London County Council evening classes. They are allowed time off from the workroom, and receive maintenance for attendance.

In addition to the ordinary workrooms, Domestic Economy Training Centres have been established, where for 40 hours per week the women are instructed in cookery, dressmaking, and stitchery, and have health lectures with practical demonstrations.

At each centre a training kitchen, under a competent supervisor, assisted by girl and women learners, supplies dinners for the persons employed in the workrooms, at 3d. per head, including a cup of tea and a slice of bread and butter at 4-30 p.m. These cook-learners are taught the nutritive values of foods, and have special demonstration cooking lessons, in addition to being taught how to purchase economically. About 1,500 dinners are provided weekly.

A scheme for training Home Helps, that is, women who will do the work of the household where there is sickness, has been taken up by about 90 women and has proved so successful that it is to be extended. These women are trained in houses where their services are needed, and in addition have a class weekly on "Home Hints" by an experienced teacher.

Clerks and typists are offered further training and education in book-keeping typing, and shorthand; and also in dressmaking and general educational subjects. They are paid at the same rate as the industrial workers (10s. per week) and in addition, as there is no localised workroom, receive an allowance of 4s. per week for travelling and incidental expenses.

Considerable attention has been given to the question of girls under 16, but unless they were the full or partial bread winners of the family they have not been allowed to enter the ordinary relief workrooms.

Training centres for instruction in English dressmaking, needlework hygiene, cookery, home nursing, and physical drill have been arranged, with 25 hours training per week, and a maintenance grant of 4s. per week for those under 15 years, and 6s. per week for those under 16 years.

In deciding what types of employment should be permitted in relief workrooms the Central Committee were guided by two main principles. In the first place the product of that employment must not compete in any way with ordinary industry. In the second place the work must be of such a nature as to maintain and, if possible, improve the efficiency of the women employed.

Specially favourable terms of emigration having been made on behalf of certain Australian Governments, the Central Committee, working in connection

with the British Women's Emigration Association, made arrangements so that girls willing to emigrate have had their registration fee paid, £1 promised on landing, and supplied with a good outfit worth about £5, principally made in the workrooms on commercial lines. Several have availed themselves of the offer and others will follow later.

All expenses in connection with the work of providing employment is financed by the Queen's Work for Women Fund.

M. A. GASSON.

40. OVERLAPPING.

An acute case of overlapping between the Abersychan and Blaenavon societies has been remitted to the United Board by the Western Section. So far back as 1907 the question had been under consideration, and at that time Mr. J. C. Gray issued a report after making an inquiry into the merits of the case.

In view of the impossibility of arriving at a mutual settlement locally, the United Board has appointed a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Charter, Millerchip, and Pollitt, to deal with the matter, and they are prepared to arbitrate, provided both societies will agree to accept their findings. At the time of writing the Blaenavon Society has accepted the condition named, but the reply of the Abersychan Society is not favourable to arbitration.

Negotiations are still in progress, and no doubt the deputation will, if necessary, be prepared to report further to Congress.

LEGAL MATTERS.

41. LIMIT OF INSPECTION.

The Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1876, permitted any person who had an interest in the funds of any society to inspect all and every of the society's books. This privilege of unlimited inspection had become very much abused, and was often used, not so much for the general good of a society as from self-interested motives, therefore, when the Act of 1893 was passed this section was amended to limit the power of inspection to the inspecting member's own account in the society and to the books containing the names and addresses of the members. It has always been advised by the Union that the word "inspection" did not allow of copies or extracts being taken from the books, but that the inspection was only good so far as the information could be retained in the memory of the person inspecting. A point has now arisen in connection with the Belfast Society, where a member demanded the right to take extracts from the books containing the members' names and addresses. On the advice of the Union the society refused to allow

this to be done, with the result that the member placed the matter in the hands of a solicitor, who at once entered an action against the society to compel them to allow of such extracts being taken.

As this is a matter which affects the co-operative movement as a whole we have taken the matter up, and our solicitors are fighting the case on our behalf. We have engaged the best counsel possible, and hope, when the action is heard, that a decision will be given which will decide once and for all what is to all co-operative societies a very important matter indeed.

42. CONTRACTS WITH PUBLIC BODIES.

An important question, and one which will no doubt be of interest to co-operators generally, has arisen in the Scottish Section during the past year.

Two members of the committee and an employé of the Leith Provident Co-operative Society were elected members of the Leith School Board. The validity of contracts between the board and the society was questioned, and, acting on the advice of their counsel, the School Board excluded the Leith Provident Co-operative Society from the list of those allowed to tender for their contracts, on the ground that such contracts, if made, would be open to challenge, seeing that the society was represented upon the School Board. Seeing this decision meant that co-operative societies would lose business which they might otherwise obtain, or, alternatively, the members of such societies were prevented from taking part in public administration, we have taken the opinion of a very eminent Scottish Counsel upon the important question as to whether co-operative societies are debarred from entering into contracts with town, county and parish councils, and school boards, when members, directors, or employés of such societies happen also to be members of such councils or boards.

The opinion obtained was to the effect that the existence of a contract between a town council, county council, or parish council and a co-operative society would disqualify and render liable to a penalty any member of the council who was either a director or ordinary member of the society. This opinion was based upon the detailed code of regulations applied to county councils by Section 13 of the Town Councils Act, 1900, on the ground that co-operative societies did not fall within the list of exemptions provided for by the code. Counsel did not think the same rule would apply to the case where a member of a town council, county council, or parish council was merely an employé of the body with whom such council contracted. But if the employé was partly remunerated by a bonus fixed on profits it might be otherwise. The case would be so near the borderline of disqualification that, in the view of counsel, the application of the rule of disqualification would depend upon the particular circumstances. As regards school boards, counsel's opinion was somewhat different. In their case the only statutory disqualification consisted in the provision of Section 21 of the Education Act of 1878—"That no person holding an office of profit under the board should

be eligible or capable of acting as a member." He did not consider that a member of a school board who was interested as a director, shareholder, or employé in a company or society which had a contract with the board held an office of profit under the board, and was not therefore disqualified from being a member of such board.

In reply to a further question as to whether a contract entered into between a co-operative society or combination of societies and any of the public bodies referred to would be void or voidable by reason of a member of that public body being interested in the society or combination either (a) as an ordinary member, (b) as a director, or (c) as an employé, Counsel stated that a contract between a school board and a co-operative society would not necessarily be voidable because one or more members of the board were interested in the society, and that if such members refrained from voting or otherwise influencing the contract it would be valid. Town councils, county councils, and parish councils were, however, in a different position, being subject to a special statutory code of regulations. Although these regulations did not expressly provide that contracts of the character in question were invalid, their immediate and express object was to disqualify and penalise the members of such bodies who were interested in the contracts made, and, in counsel's opinion, the necessary implication was that such contracts are prohibited and therefore voidable.

Speaking on the subject generally, Counsel was of opinion that the position of societies with reference to public bodies upon which their members happened to sit was one which called for legislation rather than litigation. The disabilities from which they suffered arose from the code of regulations which now applied to all these public bodies. The code was taken from English municipal legislation, and its general object, which was to prevent public offices being made a source of private gain, was perfectly sound. It was, however, early recognised that it was unnecessary and inexpedient to extend the rule to the case of contracts between public bodies and joint stock companies in which members of the public bodies happened to be interested as shareholders. In its modern form the code contained a large number of exemptions, including the case where a member was interested in "any railway company or any company incorporated by Act of Parliament or Royal Charter, or under the Companies Acts." It was impossible to draw any distinction in this matter between a joint stock company and a co-operative or building society, but the latter class of societies had never been included in the exemptions, and, consequently, were disabled from making contracts which would otherwise have been open to them. What was required therefore is legislation which would extend to co-operative societies the privilege now statutorily enjoyed by every kind of company.

43. COLLECTIVE LIFE ASSURANCE.

Several societies have been carrying on the business of collective life assurance through their own funds, and there has always been some doubt as

to whether by so doing they did not bring themselves within the provisions of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909. An action was commenced against one large society which had been doing the business for some years, wherein a member of the society claimed an injunction to restrain the society from carrying on the business of life assurance. The grounds of action were two-fold, first, that the carrying on of insurance business was *ultra vires*, and, alternatively, that the society could only properly carry on such business if it complied with the provisions of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, which called for the deposit of £20,000 with the Board of Trade. The case was heard in the Chancery Court of Lancaster, when the Vice-Chancellor decided that on the first ground of action the plaintiff failed, but on the second, there were, in his opinion, a number of contracts entered into by the society for the payment of money on death or the happening of a contingency dependent on human life. He was satisfied advertisements had been issued showing benefits members and purchasers received on death. He thought the payments which were made out of the profits for the purpose of carrying on the insurance scheme were in the nature of premiums, and that the rules of the society and the purchase books which they issued constituted an instrument assuring the payment of money on death. Under these circumstances he declared that the society was carrying on a business of life assurance as defined by Section 1a of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, and had made default in complying with the requirements of sub-section 2, Section 1 of that Act.

Not being satisfied with this decision the society appealed against it, and a decisive judgment was gained in the Court of Appeal in March last, when it was held by the Master of the Rolls and Mr. Justice Joyce (Lord Justice Phillimore dissenting) that the society was not carrying on life assurance business within the meaning of the Act, as no policy had been issued, no premium paid, and there was no obligation on the society to appropriate any further sum to the insurance fund. In the opinion of the Court the arrangement lacked every element necessary to constitute "carrying on the business of life assurance," and was nothing more than an appropriation of income, or possibly of capital, which might at any moment be terminated by the general meeting. Reference was made to the advertisements and notices issued by the society as being "inaccurate, misleading, and improper." These represented that "the life of every member was insured free of charge." As to these, the Master of the Rolls explained that he had received from the society's counsel a distinct assurance that no such statements would in future be made; and that, however reprehensible they might be, one could not, in his opinion, by calling something which was not an assurance, by that name, make it a policy of assurance within the meaning of the Act. The appeal was therefore allowed and the action dismissed.

As a result of this action many points have been raised upon which we have thought it advisable to obtain the opinion of an eminent counsel. This is now in hand, and we hope to gain therefrom information which will be of valuable assistance to societies which carry on this class of business.

BENEVOLENT FUNDS.

44. THE BLANDFORD MEMORIAL.

The subscription to this fund at the Dublin Congress amounted to £76. 8s. Of this amount, £20 has, as usual, been devoted to the award of travelling scholarships. These have been awarded to Mr. E. Rennison (Bradford) and Miss Herbert (Boxmoor). The balance of the sum has been used for the purchase of an outdoor shelter for the Drumcondra Hospital. The presentation was made by the President of the Congress (Mr. R. Fleming).

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

45. THE CO-OPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS.

(NEALE AND HUGHES.)

The examination for the "Hughes" Scholarship, the eighth since its establishment, was held in May, 1914, when fourteen candidates competed.

During the year there has been held a meeting of the trustees of these scholarships in order that the vacancies caused through deaths and resignations could be filled, and to discuss the aims and objects of the scholarships and their present utility to the movement.

The new constitution of the trustees is as follows :—

"HUGHES" SCHOLARSHIP.

Midland Section : Mr. G. Bastard in place of the late Mr. J. Hepworth.

Northern Section : Mr. W. R. Rae in place of Mr. H. R. Bailey.

North-Western Section : Mr. J. Crabtree.

North-Western Section : Mr. S. Fairbrother in place of the late Mr. A. Greenwood.

Scottish Section : Mr. J. Deans.

Southern Section : Mr. M. H. Clear in place of the late Mr. E. Vansittart Neale.

Western Section : Mr. W. J. Gilbert in place of the late Mr. J. Clay.

"NEALE" SCHOLARSHIP.

Irish Section : Mr. R. Fleming in place of Sir H. C. Plunkett.

Midland Section : Mr. G. Bastard in place of the late Mr. J. Hepworth.

Northern Section : Mr. W. R. Rae in place of Mr. H. R. Bailey.

North-Western Section : Mr. W. Dewhurst in place of the late Mr. J. T. W. Mitchell.

North-Western Section : Mr. J. Thompson in place of the late Mr. A. Greenwood.

Scottish Section : Mr. J. Deans.

Southern Section : Mr. B. Jones.

Western Section : Mr. J. R. Davies in place of the late Mr. J. Clay.

As regards the objects and aims of the scholarships it was agreed that steps should be taken to bring them more closely into harmony with the intentions of the founders, and that as a beginning an attempt should be made to alter the competitive or entrance examination now arranged for candidates, and that it should include a test on advanced lines in the subject of "Co-operation." Further it was agreed to recommend that the curriculum of the student when at college should include Civic and Industrial History, Economics and Science of Sociology.

To carry out the recommendations above named a Sub-committee (consisting of Messrs. W. R. Rae, B. Jones, the General and Educational Secretaries) was appointed to interview the authorities at Oriel College, Oxford.

At this interview the college authorities agreed to include in the entrance examination a further test in the subject of "Co-operation" as desired, and the trustees will in future now award each scholarship to the candidate who is most successful in this subject and has also qualified by passing the college entrance examination for admission into the college. This entrance examination, at which all candidates must satisfy the authorities at Oriel as to their fitness to be undergraduates, includes :—

- (a) Translation from English into Latin prose;
- (b) A passage of Latin to be translated at sight;
- (c) Mathematics, including Arithmetic, with either Algebra to Simple Equations (inclusive); or the Elements of Geometry, as required in Responsions.
- (d) A Paper of General Questions.

Scholars at Oriel are also required to pass Responsions before going into residence.

The successful candidates for these Co-operative Scholarships will also be required to read for a Diploma in Economics, and for an ordinary B.A. Degree, and to diligently pursue the course of studies appointed for the same.

The Scholarship Funds at present realise the sum of £100 per year, after allowing the scholarships to remain vacant for one year.

The Trustees desire to make the scholarships continuous and avoid the break. They are therefore recommending the United Board to give a donation of £40 per year (£20 each scholarship) from the funds of the Union, and this matter will in due course be considered by the United Board.

Each scholarship can therefore be considered to be of the value of £400 (£100 for four years). The Trustees however, reserve the right to withhold any instalment on receipt of an unfavourable report from the college on the behaviour or diligence of the holders.

CONNECTION WITH OTHER BODIES.

46. FOREIGN CONGRESSES.

(See Appendix VII., page 239.)

The Co-operative Union has been represented at the undermentioned Foreign Congresses. In the appendix will be found reports of the representatives attending.

Place.	Date.	Representative.
Austria (Vienna)	June.....	Mr. T. Horrocks.
Belgium (Seraing)	July	Mr. W. J. Douse.
Denmark (Copenhagen) ..	May	Mr. D. Evans.
Finland (Tampere)	May-June	Mr. W. H. Clear.
Germany (Bremen)	June.....	Messrs. R. R. Prynne and A. Whitehead.
Norway (Christiania)	June.....	Mr. G. Wilson.
Sweden (Stockholm)	June.....	Mr. J. Murdoch.
Switzerland (Berne)	June	Mr. W. Dewhurst.

47. THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

Arrangements had been made for a representative to attend and convey the greetings and best wishes of co-operators to the Trades Union Congress, which usually takes place in September, but owing to the outbreak of war the congress was abandoned.

48. THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

The annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, which is held during Easter week, has been abandoned on account of the war.

49. THE WOMEN'S GUILDS.

(See Appendix VIII., page 251.)

Applications for increased grants to the Scottish and Irish Women's Guilds were made to the central board at its meeting during Congress, and the sums of £150 and £30 were made respectively.

The grant usually made to the English Guild has not been paid, as the guild would not accept the conditions imposed by the Central Board. A full statement of the case follows:—

The Women's Co-operative Guild was formed twenty-nine years ago, and from that time up to the present the Co-operative Union has made from its funds an annual grant to the Guilds. These grants have increased year by year, until in 1913 the amount paid to the English Guild had reached the sum of £400.

The usual applications for the annual grants were made to the Central Board of the Co-operative Union at its meeting held during Congress week, 1914, but that to the English Guild was withheld for the time being, as they would not adopt certain suggestions made by the Board.

The Co-operative Union is represented on the committee or governing body of organisations to which grants have been made, but in the past the Central Board has not sought representation on the Central Committee of the Guild, which action on their part shows that, far from having any wish to unnecessarily interfere, they had every confidence that the Guild could be controlled by the ladies themselves. Until the present instance the Union has never raised objection to any subject which the Guild has included in its programme. During 1913 communications were received by the Board from the Catholic Federation calling attention (on religious grounds) to the action the Women's Co-operative Guild was taking in connection with the question of Divorce Law Reform. This correspondence was considered by the United Board at its meeting held in March, 1914, and the following letter forwarded to the General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild :—

“Dear Miss Davies,—The United Board, at their meeting on Saturday last, had laid before them the correspondence received from the Catholic Federation *re* the action taken by the Women's Co-operative Guild on the question of Divorce Law Reform. The Board view with concern the attitude taken by the Federation, and, if they carry out their intention with regard to the matter, it is evident that trouble and upset will be caused in many of our societies. Whilst not identifying themselves with the opinions put forward by the Federation, the Board feel that it would be very inadvisable for the Guild to carry on propaganda of this nature in the name of the co-operative movement, and they desire that your Central Committee will very seriously consider the advisability of giving up work in this direction, otherwise they think it is bound to lead to disruption in the movement.

“Yours sincerely,

“A. WHITEHEAD.”

The following reply was received from the Central Committee of the Guild and submitted to the Board at its next meeting, when it was resolved that the contents of the letter be noted :—

“To the United Board.

“Gentlemen,—The work of the Guild, while primarily concerned with co-operation, has a further side to it, which deals with questions of industrial and social reform affecting its members as married women. Of these questions that of Divorce Law Reform is one of the most important.

“In advocating a reform in laws which are entirely out of date when compared with those of all other Protestant European countries, we do not impose our views on any who do not agree with them, and we

have always been careful to mention the small minority among our members who do not desire the changes that the vast majority are asking for. This minority has never sought to dominate the Guild, and we cannot recognise the right of an outside body like the Catholic Federation to dictate our action on what we consider to be a vital social and moral reform. The members of the Guild look to co-operation not only to set up stores where they can obtain their goods and be provided with dividend, but to remove many evils connected with our present laws and customs, and to establish society on a more equal and just basis. In Divorce Law Reform we see the means of putting an end to wide-spread human suffering and degradation, and of raising the standard of marriage, and therefore of social life to a higher plane.

"The Guild has given its attention to this subject for the last four years. Its evidence before the Royal Commission was recognised as of special value. Since then papers have been read at the sectional conferences in 1911 and 1913, and addresses given at district conferences and branch meetings. In 1910 the Annual Congress passed a resolution in favour of equality in the grounds for divorce for men and women and of making divorce proceedings cheaper. In 1913 the Congress passed a resolution in favour of the proposals of the Majority Report, with the addition of mutual consent as a ground, and the appointment of women as assessors.

"Recently, special classes have been held, and, in view of Mr. France's motion (which was afterwards blocked), a memorandum was issued to all M.P.'s.

"Having regard to the work already done in these years, and to the extreme importance of the question to working women and to the country generally, the United Board can, we think, hardly expect that the Guild would be willing to relinquish its educational and active propaganda just when practical results are in sight. We should feel that we, as the Central Committee, were disloyal to our trust if we were to lay down our arms at the present moment.

"As regards 'carrying on propaganda of this nature in the name of the Co-operative Movement,' we would submit that this has never been done. The Guild acts independently, and even in our strictly co-operative campaigns on behalf of Anti-Credit, Extension of Co-operation to the Poor, Minimum Wage, it has seemed often as if the official movement preferred us to work apart.

"It is only when we have received support by resolutions from the Co-operative Parliamentary Committee or other bodies (*e.g.*, on Women's Suffrage or on our present Maternity scheme) that we are able to use publicly the valuable backing of the movement.

"There is a final point to which we would call the attention of the Board. We know that there are those who are inclined to look unfavourably on the citizen side of the work done by the Guild, and to

wish that our activities should be confined to co-operation in its most limited sense. In reply to this we would point out that not only is co-operation closely connected with trade-unionism, trade boards, insurance, land and housing, education, &c., but that the best definitely co-operative work is done by those branches and individuals who are the keenest supporters of social reform. It is the width and variety of subjects taken up by the Guild which keeps it so alive and makes the members value it so much. We need only point to the remarkable demand at the present moment among our branches for co-operative education in connection with our new scheme, and to the energy with which our 'Push-the-Sales' campaign has been taken up throughout the Guild, to show that there is no lack of co-operative enthusiasm and life among the members. The knowledge that fruitful ideas and far reaching reforms may spring out of anything so prosaic as shopkeeping only increases the respect for loyal buying which is the A B C of Guild work.

"Yours sincerely,

"M. E. ESSERY, President.

"M. LLEWELYN DAVIES, General Secretary."

"Women's Co-operative Guild, 13th April."

At the Central Board meeting, held on 30th May, in connection with the Dublin Congress, the question of renewing the grant for the year was under consideration, when a deputation from the Catholic Federation attended and requested an interview, which was granted. After the deputation had withdrawn the Board discussed the subject at length, and having previously received the decision of the Women's Guild on the question, passed the following resolution:—

That the application of the English Women's Co-operative Guild for a renewal of the grant of £400, be agreed to on condition that they cease the agitation in favour of Divorce Law Reform, and in future that the Women's Co-operative Guilds should take up no work disapproved of by the United Board.

Copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Guild and a deputation from the Central Board appointed to attend the Women's Guild Congress. The deputation met the Central Committee and submitted to them the request of the Central Board, that the resolution on Divorce Law Reform, which was on their Congress agenda, should be deleted. The Central Committee pointed out to the deputation that the whole matter must be submitted to their Congress, and that they were not prepared to recommend the deletion of the divorce resolution.

The following resolution was submitted to the Guild Congress and carried:—

Seeing that the position of the Guild has been attained through its power to act independently and to develop on its own lines, this Congress declares that it cannot accept the conditions laid down

by the Central Co-operative Board as regards its grant to the Guild, believing that the future progress of the Guild and of the co-operative movement depends on the Guild policy being democratically controlled as in the past by the members themselves.

This was conveyed, by a deputation consisting of the Guild Central Committee, to the Central Board at a special meeting held in Manchester on 19th September, 1914, and afterwards the following resolution was adopted :—

That we make the grant for the present year to the Women's Co-operative Guild provided they will suspend their propaganda on Divorce Law Reform until Congress has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion upon the question of the conditions under which grants may be made by the Central Board to other bodies.

To this the following reply was received :—

"Dear Mr. Whitehead,—After careful consideration of the new resolution of the Central Co-operative Board, the Central Committee regret that for the following reasons they are unable to accept the £400 grant on the terms laid down :—

"1. The resolution, by still imposing a condition which limits the Guild's control of its own policy, does not substantially alter the general position, and therefore, cannot warrant a change in the Guild attitude.

"2. It may seem that the national crisis, which, in fact, now makes all public action in support of Divorce Law Reform impossible, provides the Guild with an occasion for compromise and acceptance of the grant. But, if we accept the grant conditionally, and pending a reference on the whole question of conditions to Congress, we should be compelled to carry on throughout the country a campaign in explanation of our position in regard to Divorce Law Reform. We feel first, that during the present crisis such a campaign is in every way undesirable; and, secondly, that it would in fact be scarcely consistent with an honourable fulfilment of the conditions now imposed by the Central Board. Moreover, the time for the Guild to put its case before the movement will come when the newly appointed Joint Committee of Inquiry makes its report, for the whole question of freedom for educational development will then have to be considered.

"We desire again to enter our protest against the action of the Central Board: (1) In listening to an outside sectarian body; and (2) in attaching conditions without notice and without the sanction of Congress to a grant made for so many years to a body of which every member is a co-operator.

"The above is the unanimous opinion of the Central Committee.

"Yours sincerely,

"M. LLEWELYN DAVIES."

The question of "Divorce" is, to many people, a religious one, and co-operators are most anxious not to have introduced into the movement any

questions of a political or religious character, as has been clearly demonstrated by the votes of the delegates at the Co-operative Congresses when matters have been under consideration which might possibly be construed as political

The Co-operative Congress has always been recognised as the authority to speak on behalf of the whole movement on matters affecting its policy, and if this is not to be the case in the future, then who should define such policy.

The Women's Co-operative Guild has issued a statement to societies, and one clause in this reads: "No indication has been given as to how such conditions are to be carried out, but whether the Guild is to submit all new subjects to the decision of the United Board, a body on which no woman has a seat, or whether the Guild is to be suddenly stopped in work carried on perhaps for years, it is clear the self-government of the Guild would be undermined." But the Guild has never made any inquiries as to how such conditions could be carried out. Surely it is not beyond the wit of man to devise some scheme whereby a solution of the problem could be found.

The Board has not the slightest desire to interfere with the self-government of the Guild; it has always recognised the good work done by them, and would at any time have welcomed an application for a joint meeting to discuss any matters upon which there appeared to be any doubt as to the wisdom of the Guild taking up such propaganda, and whether the subject was thought to be of a character likely to create friction which might ultimately lead to disruption.

The members of the Central Board do not question the independence of the Guild nor the right of its Executive Committee to govern and administer its affairs. They are at perfect liberty to adopt their own policy and to shape their own course, but if they desire to carry on an agitation, to which strong exception is taken by many earnest co-operators, and which, in the opinion of the Central Board, is out of harmony with the decisions of the Co-operative congress, they cannot reasonably expect to receive financial support in so doing. The Central Board stands in a fiduciary position with respect to the Union funds, and the right to grant money undoubtedly implies the right to say how that money should be spent.

The Central Board has decided to remit the whole question for consideration by Congress, and submits the following :—

RESOLUTION.

That this Congress endorses the policy hitherto pursued by the Central Board, as the administrative authority of Congress, and confirms its right to withhold grants from any organisation which, in its opinion, is pursuing a policy detrimental to the best interests of the co-operative movement.

The Guild statement appeals to societies to send in for consideration at the Leicester Congress a resolution framed by the Guild. The Abercrave, Avonbank, Birkenhead and District, Bristol, Dalmauir, East Cleveland, Enfield Highway, Hartlepoons, St. Rollox, Kilmarnock, London Perseverance,

Long Eaton, Parkstone and Bournemouth, Penge and Beckenham, Walsall and District, and West London societies have accepted their invitation and sent in the following :—

RESOLUTION.

That this Congress endorses the principle of the self-government of the Women's Guild; further, it directs that the grant of £400 for 1914 be paid to the Guild, and approves of grants being made in the future on the same lines as formerly.

The following resolution has been sent in by the Eccles Provident Industrial Co-operative Society and the Longridge Industrial Co-operative Society, viz. :—

RESOLUTION.

That this Congress endorses the action of the Central Board in withholding the £400 grant, and believes that the Women's Co-operative Guild should abandon the divorce propaganda because it is compromising the co-operative movement upon a question which is a religious one to many co-operators, and is therefore alien to the principles of the co-operative movement.

50. THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

(See Appendix IX., page 274).

The work of the International Co-operative Alliance has been materially affected by the present European conflict, probably in a greater degree than any other section of the co-operative movement. It has, thanks to the kind assistance of a member of the Central Committee residing in a neutral country, been enabled to keep in touch with most of the countries in membership with the Alliance.

The delegates attending the International Congress held at Glasgow, in August, 1913, who had then the privilege of hearing Mr. E. von Elm (of Hamburg) make one of the finest speeches on International Peace ever heard on any co-operative platform, little thought that such a great change could have been brought about. At that time we had in friendly conference representatives from all the countries which are now belligerents, mixing together and exchanging views on the co-operative movement in their various countries, amongst whom the best of friendship prevailed. We cannot, therefore, think that co-operators have had any voice in the ultimatum which has brought about so much devastation and loss of life; we feel sure that had they been consulted or their views obtained matters would have been very different. Everyone present at the Congress gave the mover of the resolution credit for sincerity in the words he used, and at the close of his remarks the delegates rose *en masse* and received the resolution with acclamation.

Financially, during the past year the Alliance has not suffered to any appreciable extent, but it is certain that the present year's contributions will not be forthcoming from several countries - Germany in the past has been the second largest subscriber. It will mean, therefore, that British societies and the neutral countries will be called upon to find the wherewithal to keep the Alliance

going until such time as it can resume its normal position, and when peace is signed strenuous work will be required and careful handling if the International Movement is to do what is really expected of it.

We earnestly appeal to British societies' members of the Alliance to continue their subscriptions, and if possible for the present to increase the amount, and to those societies that have not yet joined we beg them to at once seriously consider the question of joining and thus assist in the great work which lies before the co-operators of all countries.

The Executive Committee consists entirely of British representatives, therefore it is, to use an American phrase, "up to us" to see that the Alliance does not go under as a result of this great upheaval.

The Alliance is controlled by a Central Committee consisting of representatives from each country affiliated to the Alliance, Great Britain, by reason of its contributions, being entitled to seven members; these are Messrs. Deans, Gregory, McInnes, Maxwell, Whitehead, and Aneurin Williams, and, since the International Congress of 1913 up to the time of his death, Mr. Shillito had been a member as representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Mr. T. W. Allen has now been appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Executive Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance has given careful consideration as to the best means of rendering assistance to the co-operative societies that have been affected by the war, and finally decided that when the time is ripe, they will be prepared to issue an appeal to all countries for a large sum to assist in building up the societies that have suffered. They had before them appeals from Belgium and France for immediate assistance, but, in view of their International obligations and their decision to make a general appeal at a later period, they could not make an exception in favour of the two countries named. The matter was therefore referred to the Co-operative Union asking them to give the question their attention, and, as a result, the United Board decided to issue an appeal for funds to be used in rendering help to the co-operative societies in those parts of Belgium and North France which have been destroyed.

The committees of societies do not appear to realise the necessity that exists for the large amount of money required to meet the immediate requirements, and we ask the societies to respond as liberally as possible for this most laudable object. The deputations thought it might be possible for British societies to lend them capital for a lengthy period without interest or at a very low rate, but the United Board were of opinion that every assistance should be given to these unfortunate brother co-operators who were not in a position to help themselves, and that it would be more to the credit of British co-operators if given outright rather than as a loan.

The Executive Committee meet regularly at periods of about six weeks, and are carefully watching events with the view of rendering assistance in any possible direction.

A statement showing the financial position of the Alliance at the end of 1914 will be found in the Appendix.

51. THE HODGSON PRATT MEMORIAL.

The Hodgson Pratt Memorial has been founded to keep alive the memory of Hodgson Pratt, one of the greatest workers of the last century for the principle of association and human brotherhood, as exemplified in the co-operative, international peace, and workmen's club movements. He was also an earnest supporter of the women's trade union movement, and all forms of education for the workers.

The Co-operative Union is one of the eight organisations which are the members of the memorial, is represented on its managing committee by Mr. Charter (Southern Section), and makes an annual grant to its funds.

The Memorial Committee reports that after meeting all expenses it has been able to add £95. 7s. 8d. to the Memorial Fund, which now stands at £1,309. Subscriptions and donations during the year included £57 from co-operative societies, including £25 from the Scottish Wholesale Society.

A travelling scholarship of twenty guineas, a scholarship at Ruskin College, and two scholarships at the summer school organised by the London University at Eton College, were awarded by the Memorial, and a grant of books to the value of £10 was made to the Central Library for the use of tutorial class students.

During the year a large number of pamphlets and leaflets have been circulated among workmen's organisations, and a valuable report upon "The Conditions of Apprenticeship in the Iron Moulding Trade in Belgium and England" has just been published by the committee. This report is the result of the Travelling Scholarship awarded in 1913 to Mr. Fred Longden, who distinguished himself in the tutorial classes organised by Manchester University and also at Ruskin College, where he won with distinction the Oxford University diploma in Economics and Political Science. This booklet is published at sixpence, and should be read by all interested in industrial conditions.

The committee appeal for further subscriptions to the fund, which it is desired to increase to such an amount as will enable them to offer annually a Ruskin College scholarship in addition to its other activities. We heartily recommend societies to give what support they can to the memorial, which is doing excellent and useful work on behalf of democratic movements and education. Particulars and papers will be gladly sent on application to the hon. secretary, Mr. J. J. Dent, at the registered office, 60, Knatchbull Road, London, S.E.

CONGRESS.

52. THE CONGRESS OF 1916.

By order of rotation the Congress of 1916 is due to be held in the North-Western Section. Lancaster society has extended an invitation for the Congress

to meet in that town, and this being the only one sent in, the United Board arranged for a deputation to visit the town in order to ascertain whether suitable accommodation is available. The deputation will be prepared to submit a report to Congress as to the accommodation.

OBITUARY.

53. DECEASED CO-OPERATORS.

The following is a list of co-operators who have died since last Congress, notice of whose death appeared in the Co-operative Journals:—

1914.

	Page.		Page.
Adams, S., Peterborough	484	Mawson, T., Stanhope	1539
Bridge, W., Ripley ..	485	Mayo, Mrs. Fyvie, Aberdeen	660
Buffoli, L., Milan, Italy	1299, 1453	McCarragher, J., Armagh	1457
Chapman, Mrs., Benwell	599	Miller, Lieut.-Surgeon	1474
Child, T., Wakefield	1147	Moxon, J., Stocksbridge	894
Collins, A., Ebbw Vale	1475	Naylor, T., Leigh	1298
Cronshaw, R., Manchester	1197	Nicholson, Mrs. F. M., York	643
Dickerson, Mrs., Arnold	1512	Overend, Mrs., Dewsbury	1462
Dickinson, Mrs. B., Bolton	806	Porter, S., Walsall	1373
Eddlestone, D., Barnsley	1528, 1543	Richards, L. W., Blaina	1282
Ellison, S., Wilsden	1171	Riley, Mrs., Accrington	660
Exley, J., Leeds	1481	Rogers, Wm., Manchester	1431
Gaukrodger, E., Halifax	1218	Roome, W., Sheffield	1341
Gee, Mrs., Blaydon	944	Scott, W., York	1492
Gibson, R., Newcastle	1473, 1481	Stott, E., Manchester	1529
Gill, A. H., M.P., Bolton	1146	Sullivan, T. S., Kirkham	1394
Hibbard, E., Mansfield	1127	Taylor, Private W. C., Manchester	1418
Howarth, T., Flixton	547	Thornton, J., Pendleton	1329
Howlett, Mrs. A., London	531	Walker, Private J., New Mills.	1506, 1529
Jackson W. A., Prestwich	517	Walton, W., Sheffield	1218, 1230
Kellett, H. N., Bishop Auckland	1382	Wilson, R., Malton	1539
Lowe, J., Crewe	1061, 1126	Wright, C., Longsight	838
Maroney, Private C., Manchester.	1406		

1915.

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Alston, Rifleman Dixon, Manchester 499	Lloyd, J., Leeds.....298, 329, 371
Bailey, W. H., Hull497	M'Pherson, C., S.C.W.S. .. 149
Bare, E., London413	Miller, W. G., Norwich145
Barns, F. G., Battersea..197	Mills, T., Crewe86
Barrowman, J., Glasgow113	Moore, J., Lancaster329
Bell, R., Dunston413	Murphy J. H., Manchester.....413
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Deans, A., Woolwich....64, 97, 234, 379	212-217, 226, 228, 232-238, 244,
Dray, Sergt. A., Hastings395	258, 259, 290, 295, 379, 412
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High, T., Bishop Auckland435	Touillet, C., Rouen.....413
Holgate, W., Southport368	Wall, J. W. H., Bristol.....434
Howe, T., Sunderland 255	Ward, Frank, Long Buckby521
Jackson, J., Rochdale279	Waters, Mrs., Beswick200

The following have appeared in the *Scottish Co-operator* : —

1914.

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Harkness, T. J., S.C.W.S. 343	Crawford, Wm., St. Cuthbert's ... 844
Ralston, John, Kilwinning 345	Bruce, James, Brechin United ... 844
Binnie, A. E., S.C.W.S..... 376	Lamont, Alex., St. Cuthbert's 901
Davidson, John, S.C.W.S..... 376	Gilmour, John, U.C.B.S. 964
Tweedale, Robert, Co-op. Conva- scent Homes Association... 443	Cook, Wm., St. Rollox 964
Paton, Robert, Paisley Provident. 473	M'Donald, Hugh, S.C.W.S. 1003
Blair, Wm., City of Perth 614	Campbell, Dan. S., Kinning Park 1024
Hunter, Thos, Kilmarnock Eqt... 642	Sannachan, James, Howwood.... 1024
Wyse, David, Kelty..... 673	Hood, Wm., Tweedside..... 1044
Kirk, John, Dunfermline 673	Dunn, James, St. Cuthbert's .. 1083
Weir, John, Bellshill and Mossend 782	Buffoli, Sr. Luigi, Milan 1084
Munro, Mrs. James, Leith Provi- dent 810	Miller, Sgn. Wm., H.M.S. Bulwark 1105
	Kernohan, James, S.C.W.S..... 1110
	M'Intyre, John, S.C.W.S..... 1169

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Anderson, Thos. K., London 49	Macpherson, Chas. W., S.C.W.S. .. 128
Deans, Adam, C.W.S. 68	Kaye, Geo. Murray, <i>Scottish</i>
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M'Leod, Frank, S.C.W.S.	192	Association	288
Paisley, John, S.C.W.S.	200	Crighon, T., S.C.W.S.	296
Mackay, George, City of Perth	200	Ferguson, A., St. Cuthbert's	296
Oliver, George, S.C.W.S.	217	Morrison, P., St. Cuthbert's	296
Fyfe, John B., S.C.W.S.	242	Macgregor, Jas., Glasgow Eastern	315

THE LATE JOHN SHILLITO.

In connection with this Obituary we cannot refrain from calling special attention to the name of one of our deceased friends, who, owing to the eminent position which he held, and by his untiring devotion to duty, even up to the moment of his death, won for himself a foremost place in our esteem—we refer to the late Mr. John Shillito, who had, for twenty years, occupied one of the highest positions in the movement, viz., that of Chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

On behalf of the Co-operative Union we passed the following resolution and forwarded a copy to his relatives:—

That the Co-operative Union desires to place on record its deep sense of the loss the co-operative movement has sustained by the death of Mr. J. Shillito, J.P. It recognises the great services he has rendered to co-operation, and his wide knowledge has contributed to the promotion of the social ideals which co-operators are striving for. It desires to express to the members of his family its sincere and heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

PROPOSED ALTERATION

OF THE

RULES

OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED.

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF RULES.

Proposed by the South-Western Sectional Board.

Rule 24 (7), line 1.—That “5” be rescinded and “6” substituted.

The following proposed amendments have been sent in by Bristol Co-operative Society, Twerton Co-operative Society, Weston-super-Mare and District Co-operative Society, and Yeovil and District Co-operative Society.

AMENDMENT TO RULE 24.

That in the South-Western Section the following Rules shall be substituted for Clauses (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of Rule 24:—

(1) The South-Western Section shall be divided into three electoral districts comprising the following three Conference Associations:—1, Cornwall; 2, Devon; 3, Somerset; which shall respectively have such limits and comprise such societies as the Sectional Board determines by its resolutions from time to time.

(2) The electoral districts shall have the following representation:—Cornwall electoral district, 1 representative; Devon electoral district, 3 representatives; Somerset electoral district, 2 representatives.

(3) In the course of the thirteenth week preceding the Congress in each year, there shall be sent from the Central Office to every society in each electoral district which has contributed to the funds of the Union during the current Congress year not less than the minimum sum required of it by rule, a paper by which it may nominate a candidate for the section as a representative for that district.

(4) Societies may nominate such number of candidates as are required to fill the seats allocated to their particular electoral district, but not more than one candidate shall be a member of the society nominating.

Every candidate must be a member of some society member of the Union belonging to the electoral district for which he is nominated, and resident in the district; also he must have been for twelve months preceding nomination a member of some society member of the Union.

(5) Nomination papers must be returned to the Central Office within one calender month from the date on which they are issued, otherwise they shall not be available for the ensuing election.

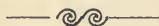
(6) From the nomination papers shall be prepared voting papers, of which one shall be sent to each society member of the Union in the three electoral districts mentioned above, which has contributed to the funds of the Union not less than the sum required by rule, containing respectively the names of all the candidates nominated for the district in which the society is situate.

No society shall vote for more than the number of candidates required to fill the seats allocated to the district in which it is situate—voting papers not conformable to this rule shall not be counted by the scrutineers.

(7) The arrangement of nomination and voting papers and the declaration of the poll shall be made in manner prescribed by Rule 26, so far as its provisions are not hereby expressly altered.

(8) Subject to any direction hereafter given by the Board, the nomination and voting papers to be issued for the elections to the Board shall be in such forms as the said section from time to time determines.

APPENDIX.



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Appendix to the Report of Central Board.

I.—LIST OF SOCIETIES WHICH HAVE FAILED TO SUPPLY PARTICULARS FOR THE STATISTICS OF 1914.

ARRANGED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTIONS.

(See Report 2, page 86.)

IRELAND (6).

Ballinaglerah.	Shamrock.
Dunraymond.	Ulster.
Irish Builders.	Whealt.

MIDLAND SECTION (29).

Alcester Needle Makers.	Mayfield.
Blue Lias.	*Morning Star Sundries.
Braefield.	Paradise (Foleshill).
Brassington.	Pinxton.
Brington.	Pleasley Works.
Brixworth.	Quorndon.
Broadwell.	Sapcote
Church Lench.	Southam.
Clay Cross.	Stratford-on-Avon.
Clee Hill.	Walmsgate.
Derby Umbrella Makers.	Whitchurch.
Eathorpe and Marton.	Wisbech.
Ecton.	Woodborough.
Halesowen and Hasbury.	*Yardley Hastings.
Loughborough Working Men's.	

NORTHERN SECTION (2).

Bearpark Colliery.	Marsden.
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NORTH-WESTERN SECTION (35).

Altofts.	Healey.
Blackburn Excelsior.	Ingrow.
*Brierfield.	Lower Holker.
*Bromborough Pool.	Low Wortley.
Broughton-in-Furness.	*Mytholmroyd.
Castleford and Allerton.	Riccall
*Chisworth.	*Rivals
Conisborough.	Sabden.
Cowms.	Settle.
Darwen Provident	Settrington.
Deiniolen.	Sheffield Trade Union Sheep Shear Manufacturing.
Dolgarrog.	Shepley.
Dove Holes.	Smallbridge Conservative
Eiff Workmen's	Sychtyn.
Farnley.	*Wetherby.
Furness and S. Cumberland Supply.	Withnell.
Foxdale.	Woodley.
Hainworth.	

SCOTTISH SECTION (25).

*Aberfoyle.	Forth Provident.
Blairdardie.	Freuchie Equitable.
Burntisland Bread.	Glenboig.
Calderbank.	Glespin.
Carronhall and Kinnaird.	Law.
*Carronshore Baking.	Millport.
Crofthead.	Montrose Baking and Grocery.
Earlston	Overtown.
Edenvale	Plains.
Falkland.	Rutherglen Victualling and Baking.
Forfar Free Trade Saving.	Scottish Guild of Handicrafts.
.. Northern.	Strathisla.
.. West Town.	

SOUTHERN SECTION (14).

Biggleswade.	Greenwich Bread and Flour.
Canteen and Mess.	Mere.
Childe Okeford.	Middleton Stoney.
Euston.	Portsmouth Printers.
Farnham and Alton Farmers.	Oxford University.
Forton Coal (Gosport).	St. Clements.
Gothic.	Woodworkers.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION (3).

Bath.
*East Harptree.

Wells.

WESTERN SECTION (9).

Cwmavon.
Duffryn (Mountain Ash).
Ferndale.
Garndiffaith and Varteg.
Margam.

Penrhiwceiber.
Pontyberem.
Tortworth.
Treorky.

SUMMARY.

Ireland	6
Midland Section	29
Northern Section.....	2
North-Western Section	35
Scottish Section	25
Southern Section.....	14
South-Western Section	3
Western Section	9
<hr/>	
Total, 1914	123
„ 1913	132
<hr/>	
Decrease	9

Societies marked * have since sent in their statistical returns, but the particulars were received too late for inclusion in the statistics.

II. FARMING.

(See Report 6, page 89.)

N.B.—Societies holding less than ten acres are not included.

(a) *By Societies.*

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society.	Rented.				Profit.	Loss.
MIDLAND SECTION —								
Coalville	Leicester ..	9	17	£ 1137	£ 47	£ 30	£ †	£ ..
Derby	Derby	52	..	5129	205	..	..	..
Desborough	Northamptn	3200	500	..	..	..	310	..
Earls Barton	Northamptn	36	7	2404	108	20	45	..
Enderby	Leicester ..	4	230	2400	61	342	336	..
Gainsborough	Lincoln ..	..	458	5031	251	653	..	161
Hucknall Torkard	Nottingham	..	465	4894	174	625	..	87
Ilkeston	Derby ....	..	17	..	..	58	..	60
Kirkby-in-Ashfld.	Nottingham	..	106	1000	50	127	..	139
Langley Mill and Aldercar	Nottingham	..	84	1020	41	115	..	45
Leicester	Leicester ..	..	205	2000	100	256	..	43
Lincoln	Lincoln ..	481	147	26068	990	170	371	..
Long Buckby	Northamptn	9	19	694	..	59	14	..
Long Eaton	Derby	121	253	6100	254	466	..	1121
Lowdham	Nottingham	17½	..	1000	..	..	..	..
Nottingham	Nottingham	271	95	17588	601	120	18	..
Peterborough	Northamptn	303	37	11217	380	43	..	326
Raunds	Northamptn	100	48	2900	116	71	75	..
Ripley	Derby	30	50	1122	..	200	..	222
† Selston	Nottingham	† 18	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shepshed	Leicester ..	..	12½	..	..	36	..	..
Tamworth	Stafford ..	82	190	8334	367	209	401	..
NORTHERN SECTION —								
Ashington Equit.	Northumbld	..	56	..	..	76	159	..
Birtley	Durham ..	..	415	5190	225	615	240	..
Bishop Auckland	Durham ..	..	50	445	..	110	134	..
Chester-le-Street .	Durham ..	..	212	1326	53	320	153	..
Consett	Durham ..	200	..	2126	73	133	4	..
Cornforth and Coxhoe	Durham ..	34	..	1769	88	..	23	..
Darlington	Durham ..	..	66	600	..	150	22	..
Hartlepoons	Durham ..	210	17	17517	574	70	398	..
Haswell	Durham ..	..	56	250	12	80	56	..
New Brancepeth ..	Durham ..	..	16	..	..	21	..	3
Ryhope & Silksw'th	Durham ..	..	40½	350	17	111	20	..

† Purchased during 1914.

† No Account.

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society	Rented.				Profit.	Loss.
NORTHERN SECTION— <i>continued.</i>								
Seaton Delaval ..	Northumbld	..	247	£ 2770	£ 138	£ 356	£ ..	£ 231
Sherburn Hill....	Durham ..	..	113½	600	20	140	110	..
West Pelton	Durham ..	22	..	1223	43	..	98	..
NORTH-WESTERN SECTION—								
Barnsley British..	York .....	..	79	..	..	80	+	..
Batley	York .....	..	98	2239	96	192	..	996
Birkenshaw....	York .....	..	22	190	8	48	28	..
Blackley	Lancaster..	7	16	764	30	56	..	81
Bolton	Lancaster..	44	..	2500	..	..	+	..
Bradford (City of)	York	18	58	1800	72	97	+	+
Brightside and Carbrook	York	180	14	8917	359	17	163	..
Burnley	Lancaster..	77	5	9000	375	60	200	..
Colne	Lancaster..	..	24	..	..	27	+	..
Dalton-in-Furness	Lancaster..	9½	15	..	..	46	+	..
FaiIsworth	Lancaster..	25	..	4356	144	..	323	..
Farnworth and Kearsley	Lancaster..	15	..	883	36	..	+	..
Huddersfield	York .....	..	20	..	..	23	+	..
Hyde	Chester....	..	15½	..	..	40	..	51
Kirkby-in-Furness	Lancaster..	60	..	3206	107	128	21	..
Leeds	York	81	..	5937	193	..	..	127
Millom	Cumberland	33	137	1119	..	197	107	..
Nelson	Lancaster..	41	..	3526	123	..	155	..
Netherthong	Yorkshire...	11½	..	883	29	..	..	9
Pendleton	Lancaster..	..	44	190	10	81	79	..
Silsden	York	45	67	4396	128	143	..	40
Skipton	York .....	..	27	..	..	74	35	..
Winnington	Chester....	..	11	..	..	25	32	..
York	York .....	..	63	100	5	142	+	..
C.W.S., M'chester.	Lancaster..	1430	..	78734	2278	..	a1957	..
SCOTTISH SECTION—								
Bannockburn	Stirling....	30	..	1288	36	..	35	..
Dunfermline	Fife .....	..	504	6743	210	1118	3282	..
Tranent	Haddington	214	123	13279	769	229	117	..
Walkerburn	Peebles ....	..	40	794	..	85	251	..
SOUTHERN SECTION—								
Banbury	Oxford	107	..	7761	275	..	..	343
Berkhamsted	Herts	11	..	3344	145	..	..	150
Chipping Norton.	Oxford	160	40	6270	222	35	130	..
Haverhill	Suffolk	297	6½	6896	241	33	290	..
Ipswich	Suffolk	341	20	16761	680	28	..	655

† No separate account kept.

(a) Before debiting interest on Share Capital.

FARMING.

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Society.	County.	Acreage		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society	Rented.				Profit.	Loss.
SOUTHERN SECTION	--continued.			£	£	£	£	£
Sawston	Cambridge.	2	40	..	..	56	..	..
Sheerness Econ...	Kent.....	74	137	7355	294	138	564	130
Trowbridge	Wilts ....	..	40	..	..	146	..	36
SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION—								
Plymouth	Devon	261	80	23619	378	225	..	237
Radstock	Somerset ..	..	50	..	..	100	..	..
Torquay	Devon ....	..	45	954	47	200	..	30
WESTERN SECTION—								
Cwmbach	Glamorgan	..	166	350	15	114	53	..
Total.....	.....	8773 $\frac{1}{4}$	6236 $\frac{1}{2}$	358358	12293	9765	10809	5323

(b) Farming Societies.

SOUTHERN SECTION	—			£	£	£	£	£
Assington	Suffolk ....	..	223 $\frac{1}{2}$	1790	40	110	26	..
WESTERN SECTION	—							
Coln St. Aldwyns	Gloucester	..	570	..	..	396	519	..
Total.....	.....		793 $\frac{1}{2}$	1790	40	506	545	..

III.—LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

(See Report 11, page 96.)

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

ABBREVIATIONS.—C means Co-operative; E, Equitable; I, Industrial; L, Land; and P, Provident. "Limited" is understood after every name, and "Society" where A (Association) is not added.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Warwick	5750	Weoley Hill.....	Estate Office, Bournville, Birmingham
Durham	5751	Ryton Social Club and Institute..	15, Ryton Village, East Ryton, Co. Durham.
London	5752	Pimlico and District House Management A.	83, Cambridge-street, Warwick-square, Pimlico, S W.
Glamorgan....	5753	Gelligaer Housing.....	3, Dumfries-place, Cardiff.
London	5754	Paddington C.....	9a, Shelden-street, Bishops-road., Paddington, W.
Middlesex	5755	Acton Wells P. Tenants' Cottage	Victoria road, Acton Wells, Acton, W.
Yorks	5756	Upper Edge Elland Coal	Rock Tavern Inn, Dewsbury-road, Up'er Edge, Elland, Yorkshire.
Middlesex	5757	Melvin C. Residential	72 and 74, Priory-rd., Hampstead, N.W.
Essex	5758	British Seed Corn A.....	1, High-st., Dunmow.
Northumbrlnd.	5759	Tyneside Tenants	Pilgrim House Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Yorks.....	5760	Cottingham and District Growers' A.	101, Northgate, Cottingham, Hull.
Brecon	5761	Talybont-on-Usk and District Agricultural C.	Pencelly-court, near Brecon.
Glamorgan....	5762	Upper Rhondda Allotment and Gardeners' A.	22, Ystrad-rd., Pentre, Rhondda, Glam.
Yorks.....	5763	Wortley and Tankersley Farmers' C.	Station Villas, Wortley, Sheffield.
Denbigh	5764	Wrexham and District Farmers' C. Trading.	2, Temple-row, Wrexham.
Warwick	5765	Binley (Coventry) Small Holdings	10, Cash's-lane, Coventry.
Durham	5766	Birtley Smallholders	26, North-ter., Birtley, Co Durham.
Wilts.	5767	Durrington and District Agricultural C.	Charleville, Durrington, Salisbury.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Kent	5768	Hartley Agricultural C.	Owaissa, Hartley Green, Longfield, Kent.
Wilts.	5769	Knoyle and District Agricultural C.	Clouds, East Knoyle, Salisbury.
Dorset	5770	Martinstown and District Agricultural C	The House of C. H. Dight, Rew, Martinstown, Dorchester.
Hants.	5771	Oakley and District C.	The Laurels, Oakley, Basingstoke.
Hants.	5772	Petersfield Agricultural C.	Week Green, Froxfield, Petersfield.
Staffs.	5773	Wolverhampton and District Agricultural C.	Mr. F. Monckton's Estate Office, Brewood, Stafford.
Lancs.	5774	E. Whiteley, Blackfriars Press..	7, Blackfriars-street, Manchester.
Derby	5775	New Whittington Allotments A..	77, Wellington-street, New Whittington, Chesterfield.
Hants.	5776	Bransgore and District Agricultural C.	"Sunnyside," Bransgrove, Christchurch
Somerset.	5777	Cheddar Valley and District Fruit Growers' A.	The House of Mr. W. J. Humphries, North-st., Cheddar, Somerset.
Lancs.	5778	Independent Labour Party, North Salford Branch Labour and Socialist Club and Institute.	Pankhurst Hall, St. James'-road, Hightown, Manchester.
Durham	5779	Darlington East End Club and Institute.	2 & 3, East-terrace, Darlington.
Cornwall	5780	Mousehole Fishermen's.	Mousehole, Penzance.
Cornwall	5781	Newlyn Fishermen's.	Newlyn, Penzance.
Cornwall	5782	Porthleven Fishermen's.	Porthleven, Helston.
Cornwall	5783	St. Ives Fishermen's.	St. Ives, Cornwall.
Oxford	5784	Cotswold Dairy.	Dairy Farm, Cornwell, Chipping Norton, Oxon.
Durham	5785	Trimdon Colliery and Deaf Hill, Workmen's Club and Institute.	Colliery-sq., Trimdon Colliery, Co. Durham.
Wilts.	5786	Ansty and Swallowcliffe Agricultural C.	Vine Cottage, Swallowcliffe, Salisbury.
Derby	5787	Middleton Agricultural C. Trading	The Bateman Arms Inn, Middleton-by-Youlgreave, Derbyshire.
Berks.	5788	Kennet Valley Agricultural C. ...	Winchcombe Lodge, Bucklebury, Reading.
Hereford.	5789	North Herefordshire Shire Horse.	Etnam-street, Leominster.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Yorks.	5790	Ingleby and District Farmers' Trading A.	Easby Firs, Great Ayton, Yorks.
Dorset.	5791	Isle of Purbeck Agricultural C....	"Roselyn," High-st., Swanage.
Yorks.	5792	Bradley Mills School W.M.C. and I.	142a, Leeds-rd. North, Huddersfield.
London	5793	Motor Fuel Corporation	11 & 13, Southampton-row, Holborn, W.C.
London	5794	Associated Petrol Consumers	1 and 2, Great Winchester-street, E.C.
Northumbrlnd.	5795	National Amalgamated Union of Labour, Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Club and Institute.	79a, Percy-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Notts.	5796	Colston Bassett and District Dairy.	The Dairy, Colston Bassett, Notting'm
Montgomery ..	5797	Banwy Valley Farmers' C.	Voel Shop, Garth-beibio, near Welshpool.
Kent.	5798	National C. Rabbit Breeding	Belvedere-rd., Bexley Heath, Kent.
Essex	5799	Laindon and District Small Holders.	The Brambles High-rd., Laindon, Romford.
Chester	5800	Mow Cop Workmen's Club and Institute.	North-street, Mount Pleasant, Mow Cop, Stoke-on-Trent.
Lancs.	5801	Dalton-in-Furness Conservative Club.	Beckside House, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancs.
Derby	5802	Melbourne C. Small Holders	The Depot, Melbourne, Derby.
Westmorland ..	5803	Lunesdale Farmers' C. Creamery..	Box Tree, Barbon, Kirkby Lonsdale.
Merioneth	5804	Trawsfydd Farmers' C.	3, Ardudwy-terrace Trawsfydd, Merioneth.
London	5805	Investors' C.	37, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.
Staffs.	5806	Fenton Unionist W.M.C.	52, High-st., Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent.
London	5807	St. Mawes Co-part'ship Housing ..	4, Tavistock-square W.C.
Hants.	5808	Four Marks Trading A.	The Association Depot, Station-rd., Medstead, Alton.
Middlesex	5809	New Southgate Adult School Hall	Adult School Hall, Palmers-rd., New Southgate, N.
Hants.	5810	Nursling and District Agricultural	School House, Nursling, Southampton.
Cornwall.	5811	Tamar Valley Fruit Growers' A...	Fore-street, Calstock, Cornwall.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Surrey.....	5812	Wimbledon, Merton, Morden and District Smallholders' A.	Myrtle Hall, 130, Hartfield-rd., Wimbledon, S.W.
Monmouth ..	5813	Waulwyd Garden Village Co-partnership Housing.	Imperial Chambers, Bethcar-st., Ebbw Vale, Monmouth.
Derby	5814	Sothall W M.C. and Institute...	Sothall, Beighton, Sheffield.
Carmarthen ..	5815	Tumble Public Hall & Workmen's Institute.	Tumble Public Hall and Workmen's Institute, Tumble, Llannon, Carmarthen.
Lancs... ..	5816	Rochdale & District C. Laundries A.	The Stores of the Rochdale Provident Co-op. Society Ltd., Lord-st., Rochdale.
Kent	5817	Dartford & District Smallholders.	68, High-st., Dartford.
Hertford.....	5818	Baldock Cottage and Housing....	17, High-st., Baldock, Herts.
Kent	5819	Cudham and District Smallholders	Northfield, Westerham Hill, Westerham, Kent.
Surrey	5820	Shere Cottage Builders.....	Post Office Corner, Shere, Guildford.
Northumbrlnd.	5821	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Mechanics' Institute.	The New Institute, Front-street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland.
Warwick	5822	Kenilworth Conservative and Unionist Club.	Kenilworth.
Glamorgan....	5823	Blackmill and District Farmers' C.	Ynyslas Farm, Blackmill, Bridgend.
Chester	5824	Goyt Valley Farmers' Trading A..	The Manor House, Marple, Stockport.
Essex	5825	Billericay and District Smallholders' C.	"Bellegarde," Western-road, Billericay, Essex.
Oxford	5826	Oxford University C.....	20, High-st., Oxford.
Derby	5827	Brailsford and District Dairy Farmers' A.	The Factory, Brailsford, Derby.
London	5828	London Trades and Labour Hall C.	9, Vernon-pl., Bloomsbury-square, W.C.
Lancs.....	5829	Astley Garden Village	Astley, Manchester.
Lancs.....	5830	Crossgates and District Farmers' Trading A.	Holly House, Halton, Leeds.
Dorset.....	5831	West Moors and District Small Holders' A.	Moorside, Moorlands-road, West Moors, Wimborne.
Northumbrlnd.	5832	Shankhouse Working Men's Central Social Club and Institute	Arcot-place, Shankhouse, Cramlington, Northumberland

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
London	5833	Garden Estate and Model Cottage	53, Cannon-st., E.C.
Carnarvon	5334	Dolgarrog C.	Co-op. Stores, Dolgarrog, Talycafn, Denbigh.
Hertford.....	5835	North Watford Liberal and Radical Club and Institute.	228, St. Albans-road, Watford.
Westmorland...	5836	Westmorland Fruit Growers' A..	2, Aikrigg Villas, Kendal.
Durham	5837	St. Helens Auckland Workmen's Club and Institute.	Manor House, St. Helens, Auckland, Bishop Auckland.
Salop	5838	Shrewsbury Station Railway Servants' Refreshment.	Shrewsbury Station, Shrewsbury.
Cornwall.....	5839	Penzance and District Growers' A.	"Boscathnoe." Heamoor, Penzance.
Anglesey.....	5840	Anglesey Productive	Plas Llanfair Farm, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey.
Durham	5841	High Spenn Central Social Club ..	15, Ramsays - street, High Spenn, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Durham	5842	Sunnyside and District Workmen's Social Club and Institute.	Sunnyside, Gateshead.
Carnarvon	5843	Llanfairfechan C.	The Co-operative Stores, Llanfairfechan, Carnarvon.
Hants.....	5844	Wellow and District Agricultural C.	East & West Wellow Council School, East Wellow, Romsey.
Chester	5845	Gresty Road Coffee Tavern	The Coffee Tavern, Gresty-rd., Crewe.
Wilts.	5846	Trowbridge Trades and Labour Club and Institute.	24, Stallard-st., Trowbridge.
Staffs.	5847	Dunstall and Whitmore Reans C. Allotment.	76, Craddock-street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton.
Glamorgan....	5848	Tylorstown Conservative W.M.C.	East-rd., Tylorstown, Pontygwaith, Rhondda, Glam.
Durham	5849	New Kyo Constitutional Club and Institute.	Club House, New Kyo, Annfield Plain, Co. Durham.
Essex	5850	Kelvedon and District Conservative Working Men's Club.	High-st., Kelvedon, Essex.
Durham	5851	South-East Durham Farmers' A.	Ivy House, Little Stainton, Ferry Hill
Durham	5852	Hutton Henry and District Club.	Hutton Lodge, Hutton Henry, Castle Eden, Co. Durham.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
London	5853	Consolidated Petrol Supply Corporation.	36, Mark-lane, E.C.
Warwick.	5854	Earlsdon Allotments (Coventry)..	36, Arden-street, Coventry.
London	5855	British Table Poultry A.	26, Hosier-lane, West Smithfield, E.C.
Brecon	5856	Ponthenry Housing	4a, Lion-st., Brecon.
Yorks.	5857	Moorthorpe Empire W.M.C. & I.	Empire-street, Moorthorpe, South, Elmsall, Pontrefact.
Middlesex	5858	Palmers Green and District C. Allotment.	Schoolhouse, Wolves-lane, Palmers Green, N.
Montgomery ..	5859	Llanidloes Garden Suburb	Municipal Buildings, Llanidloes, Montgomery.
Yorks.....	5860	Leeds & District Market Gardeners' C.	The house of Mr. W. U. Turner, Robin Hood Gardens, nr. Wakefield.
Channel Islands	5861	Forward C.	The Bridge, St. Samsons, Guernsey.
Hants.	5862	Southbourne Conservative Club..	Harcourt-rd., Pokesdown, Bournemouth
Somerset	5863	Penscot	"Penscot," Shipham, Winscombe, Somerset.
Glamorgan....	5864	Blaen Dulais I.C.	44, Martins-av., Seven Sisters, Neath.
Leicester	5865	Ashby-de-la-Zouch Garden Suburb	55, Market-st., Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
Warwick	5866	Brighton Working Men's Club ..	"The Hawthorns," Whitmore-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.
London	5867	Rural Housing Organisation . .	4, Tavistock-sq., W.C.
Middlesex	5868	Southall Conservative & Unionist Club.	"Fairlawn," High-st, Southall.
Warwick	5869	Chilvers Coton Allotments	442, Heath End-road, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton.
Yorks.....	5870	Bingley and District Conservative Club.	Main-street, Bingley.
Durham	5871	Consett and District Conservative and Unionist Club.	2, Edith-st., Consett, Co. Durham.
Yorks.....	5872	Halifax and District Pig Breeders and Feeders' A.	1, Leyland-st., Booth Town, Halifax.
Durham	5873	Dorman's Social Club.	Club House, Lanchester, Durham.
London	5874	Motor Bus C.....	3, 4 & 5, Regent's Buildings, Wakefield-street, Brunswick-square, W.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
London	5875	Crayford Cottage	4, Tavistock-square, W.C.
Gloucester ..	5876	Mickleton and District Farmers and Market Gardeners' C. A.	The House of Mr. A. J. Joynes, Mickleton, Campden, Gloucester
Middlesex	5877	Wealdstone and Harrow Weald Constitutional Club.	54, Marlborough Hill, Wealdstone, Harrow.
London .. .	5878	Studley Growers.	34, Bloomsbury-sq., W.C.
Leicester ...	5879	Belgrave Constitutional Club. ..	270, Loughborough-road, Leicester.
Warwick	5880	First Forward Cottage	12, Cherry-street, Birmingham.
Lanes.....	5881	Lancashire and Cheshire Tobacco Planters.	49, Whitechapel, Liverpool.
Gloucester ..	5882	Farmers' Central Trading Board	25, Commercial-road, Gloucester.
London	5883	Popular Catering A	54, Long Acre, W.C.
Northampton .	5884	Wootton Future Hope Allotment A,	4, Water-lane, Wootton, Northampton.
London	5885	Fisheries Organisation.....	Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill-street, Westminster, S W.
London	5886	East Dean and United Parishes Cottage.	4, Tavistock-square, W.C.
Durham	5887	Blackhall Colliery Workmen's Club and Institute.	Park Crescent, Blackhalls, Castle Eden, Co. Durham.
Gloucester	5888	West Dean Cottage	Deep Navigation Co.'s Office, Parkend, Lydney.
Cambridge ..	5889	Leverington and District Agricultural C.	20, River - terrace, Wisbech.
Yorks.	5890	Hull City Garden Streets A.	21, Scale-lane, Hull.
Northumbriand.	5891	Newbiggin and District Allotment and Smallholders.	6, Rothesay-terrace, Newbiggin - by - the Sea, Northumbriand.
Glamorgan ..	5892	Central Conservative Club	4, St. John's-square, Cardiff.
Durham	5893	Charles Street Working Men's Social Club.	40, Charles - street, Hebburn, Co. Durham.
Middlesex ..	5894	South Ealing Conservative and Unionist Club.	Westfield House, St. Mary's-rd., Ealing, W.
Glamorgan ..	5895	Barry Garden Suburb	21, Park-place, Cardiff.
Sussex .. .	5896	Glynde and District Federation of Growers.	Ragged Lands, Glynde, Lewes.
Montgomery ..	5897	Caereinion Farmers' C.....	Station-yd., Llanfair-caereinion, Welshpool.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Northumbrlnd.	5898	Morpeth Conservative and Unionist Club.	Collingwood House, Oldgate, St. Morpeth.
Cornwall.....	5899	Lostwithiel and District C.	The Stores, Lostwithiel, Cornwall.
London	5900	Binfield Housing	4, Tavistock-square, W.C.
Hants.	5901	Isle of Wight Farmers' Agricultural Outfit	Orange Dairy, Newport, Isle of Wight.
Northumbrlnd.	5902	Avenue Social Club	3, Second-av., Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Lancs.....	5903	Preston Shoe and Slipper Makers.	Atlantean Works, Grimshaw - street, Preston.
Yorks.....	5904	East Bradford Working Men's Coal A.	110, Woodhall-road, Thornbury, Bradford.
London	5905	Sutton C. Homes	19, Buckingham-st., Strand, W.C.
London	5906	Anglo-Russian I. and Trading Alliance.	6, Eldon-st., Moorfields, E.C.
Leicester	5907	Hinckley Mutual Coal	Corner of Leicester-rd. and Derby-rd., Hinckley
Surrey	5908	Horton Estate Housing	Long Grove Asylum, Epsom.
Lancs.....	5909	Manchester and District Socialist C.	379, Edge-lane, 'Droylsden, Manchester.
Flint.	5910	Rhyl Constitutional Club..	High-street, Rhyl.
Yorks... ..	5911	Sowerby Bridge and District Dairy Farmers and Milk Dealers' A.	Tuel-lane Top, Sowerby Bridge.
Hants.	5912	Monk Sherborne, Pamber and District Agricultural C.	Rackett's Farm, Pamber, Basingstoke.
Yorks.....	5913	Midland Co-partnership Estates..	Albert Buildings, 151-7, Fitzwilliam-street, Sheffield.
Leicester	5914	Leicestershire Housing A.	22, Friar-ln., Leicester.
London	5915	White Star Touring Club.....	27, Essex-st., Strand, W.C.

II.—SCOTLAND.

Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Lesmahagow Dairy Farmers' A.	Southfield, Kirkmuirhill.
Elphin Agricultural C.	Elphin, Sutherland.
Freswick Agricultural C.	Freswick Schoolhouse, Caithness
Drumbeg Agricultural C.	Drumbeg, Lockchinver, Sutherland.
Skye Central Agricultural C.	Bernisdale, Portree, Skye.
Lochinver Agricultural C.	Inverkerkaig, Lockchinver.
Abbey Green C.	Main-street, Lesmahagow.
Stoer Agricultural C.	Achnacarnin, Clashnessie, Lairg.
Nunton C.	Uachdar, Benbecula, Inverness.
North Tell Agricultural C.	Glatcher, Tell, Zetland.
Stronsay Horse Breeding	Whitehall, Stronsay, Orkney.
Avondale Farmers' Trading A.	Craigmuir, Strathaven.
Linwood Building	Bridge of Weir-road, Linwood.
Strath Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Breakish, Skye.
Durness C.	Durness Schoolhouse, Durness, Sutherland.
Rogart Agricultural C.	Balchlaggin, Rogart, Sutherland.
Ugieside District Agricultural C.	Knap, Longside, Aberdeenshire.
Moray Firth Mutual Trading	Lintmill, Cullen.
Canishay Agricultural A.	Upper Gills, Canishay, Wick.
North Harris Agricultural C.	10, Ardhassaig, Tarbert.
Scottish Central Markets	1, Rutland-square, Edinburgh.
Scottish Central L. Bank	1, Rutland-square, Edinburgh.
Kilmallie C. Credit	The Co-operative Store, Banavie.
Larkhall C. Drug A.	114, Union-street, Larkhall.
Girvan District Trading.	Royal Bank Buildings, Girvan.
North Ronaldshay Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, North Ronaldshay.
Badfearn Rural C. Credit	Achorn House, Dunbeath.
Freuchie Reform C.	High-street, Freuchie.
Kinlochleven Village Improvement.	Kinlochleven, Argyll.
Lindean (Selkirk) Agricultural C.	Lindean Farm, Selkirk.
Oakwood (Aboyne) Agricultural C.	Heughhead, Aboyne.
Harrietsfield (Ancrum) Agricultural C.	Harrietsfield Farm, Ancrum.
Kinninghall & District (Hawick) Agricultural C.	Atholl Cottage, Kirkton, Hawick.
Kinneff & District (Stonehaven) Agricultural C.	Mill of Catherline, Stonehaven.
Bulward Maud Agricultural C.	Bulward Smithy, Maud, Aberdeen
Countesswells (Aberdeen) Agricultural C.	Stoneyfield, Countesswells, Aberdeen.
Abriachan (Inverness) Agricultural C.	Balmore, Abriachan.
Sanday Stock Improvement	Stove Farm, Sanday.

III.—IRELAND.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Waterford	1152	Blackwater Valley C. Agricultural.	Cappoquin.
Antrim	1153	Gleno C. Creamery	Gleno, Larne.
Kildare	1154	North-West Kildare C. Agricultural.	Timahoe, Donadea.
Tipperary	1155	Slievardagh Motor Transit	Mullinahone.
Limerick	1156	Bruff C. Creamery	Bruff.
Cavan	1157	Drumgoon C. Agricultural	Skerrig, Cootehill.
Sligo	1158	Ballintogher C. Agricultural	Ballintogher.
Cavan	1159	Ballymagauran C. Creamery ..	Ballymagauran.
Kerry	1160	Tarbert C. Creamery	Tarbert.
Galway	1161	Moycullen C. Agricultural	Moycullen.
Roscommon ..	1162	Four Mile House C. Agricultural..	Four Mile House.
Limerick	1163	Ballygoughlan C. Creamery	Ballygoughlan, Glin.
Sligo	1164	Kilmacowan and Knocknarea C. Agricultural.	Kilmacowan, Sligo.
Kilkenny	1165	Castlecomer C. Motor	Castlecomer.
Down	1166	Clonallon C. Agricultural	Carrickmacstay, Warrenpoint.
Meath	1167	Ballivor C. Agricultural	Ballivor.
Tipperary	1168	Birdhill, C. Creamery	Birdhill.
Queens	1169	Errill C. Agricultural	Errill.
Westmeath ..	1170	Mount Temple C. Agricultural ..	Mount Temple, Moate
Limerick	1171	Carrickerry C. Creamery	Carrickerry.
Limerick ..	1172	Kildimo C. Creamery	Kildimo.
Limerick	1173	Cratloe C. Creamery	Cratloe, Abbeyfeale.
Dublin	1174	South Country Dublin C.	Maryland, Deans-grange.
Dublin	1175	Irish Builders' C.	4, Portobello Harbour, Dublin.
Kilkenny ...	1177	Brandon Vale C. Creamery	Graigenamanagh.
Tyrone	1178	Glenlark C. Creamery ..	Glenlark, Gortin.
Armagh	1179	Derrycughan C. Creamery	Derrycughan, Market-hill.
Armagh	1180	Whitecross C. Creamery	Whitecross.
Cork	1181	Fermoy C. Agricultural	Fermoy.
Armagh	1182	Tullyogallaghan C. Creamery ..	Tullyogallaghan, Bel-leeks.
Kilkenny	1183	Callan C. Electric Lighting	Callan.
Armagh	1184	Enagh C. Creamery ..	Enagh, Markethill.
Donegal	1185	Cloudahorkey C. Agricultural....	Ballymore, S.O.
Roscommon ..	1186	Tisard C. Farm Implement	Coolderry, Athleague.
Carlow	1187	Borris C. Poultry Keepers	Borris.
Kilkenny	1188	Piltown C. Agricultural	Piltown.
Limerick	1189	Pallaskenry C. Farm Implement..	Pallaskenry.
Donegal	1190	North Donegal Hand Spinners and Hand Weavers.	Dunlewey, Gweedore.
Leitrim	1191	Carrigallen (Co. Leitrim) C. Agricultural.	Carrigallen.
Mayo	1192	Belmullet C. Agricultural	Glencastle, N.S., Bunnahowen, Ballina.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Dublin	1193	South City (Dublin) C.	27, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin.
Antrim	1194	Millbrook C.	Stores, Millbrook.
Galway	1195	Renvyle C.	Tully, Tullymore, Renvyle.
Queens	1196	Coill-na-Coirt (Courtwood) C. Agricultural.	Courtwood, Ballybrittas.
Tyrone	1197	Dunamanagh Dairy	Dunamanagh.
Cork	1198	Allensbridge C. Creamery	Allensbridge, Granavorig, Newmarket.
Sligo	1199	Sligo District C.	25, Market-st., Sligo.
Wicklow	1200	Knockanamra C. Agricultural ..	Moyne, Rathdrum.
Louth	1201	Kilsaran C. Agricultural	Kilsaran, Castlebellingham.
Sligo	1202	Magherow Potato Growers' C. Agricultural.	Magherow, Clogh-bole.

IV.—LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER DURING 1914.

(See Report 12, page 97.)

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
Northampton...	833	Oundle I. C., West-street, Oundle.	Final winding up notice.
London	2033	Co-operative Institute, 6, Bloomsbury-square, W.C.	Final winding up notice.
London	2113	South London General C., 29, Viceroy-road, South Lambeth, S.W.	Final winding up notice.
Middlesex	2138	Hampton and New Hampton C., The Stores, Station-road, Hampton, Middlesex.	Amalgamated with 2237 Middlesex.
Northumbrlnd.	2178	Backworth Powder and Candle Store, Backworth Hotel, Backworth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Dissolved by instrument.
Surrey.....	2193	Surbiton and Long Ditton C.I. and P., 46, Brighton-road, Surbiton, Surrey.	Final winding up notice.
Derby	2813	Ilkeston Liberal Club Loan, Liberal Club, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.	Cancelled by request.
Yorks.....	3059	Northowram Coal C., Mechanics' Institute, Northowram, Halifax	Cancelled as ceased.
Northampton..	3072	Irthlingborough United C. Boot and Shoe Manufacturing, Gosham-road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.	Cancelled as ceased.
London	3247	Kilburn C., 306, Kilburn-lane, Paddington, W.	Transferred engagements to 3654 Middlesex.
Leicester	3251	Railway Workmen's Coal, 5 and 7, Craddock-street, Leicester.	Dissolved by instrument.
Hants.....	3301	Southsea Central Radical Club and Institute, Central Radical Club & Institute, 18, Greetham-street, Southsea, Portsmouth.	Cancelled for default.
Surrey.....	3569	Grayshott and District Refreshment A., Messrs. Folker and Hortons, The Auction Mart, Godalming.	Transferred engagements to 3448 London.
Yorks.....	3773	Smithies W.M.C. & I., Smithies, Barnsley.	Cancelled by request. Re-registered as 5297 Yorks., W.
Sussex	3795	Bognor Working Mens' Mutual C., Canada-grove, Bognor.	Transferred engagements to 1591 Hants.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Surrey	3863	Haslemere Builders, Station-rd., Haslemere, Surrey.	Final winding up notice.
Bedford	3872	Woburn Sands and District C., High-st., Woburn Sands, Beds	Final winding up notice
Carmarthen ..	3974	Gwernogle Agricultural, Store, Gwernogle, Nantgaredig, Carm.	Dissolved by instrument.
London	4038	St. Andrew's Peckham C.I., Parish Room, Glengall-road, Peckham, S.E.	Final winding up notice.
Surrey.....	4076	Cobham and District I.C., Anyards-road, Cobham.	Transferred engagements to 3852 Surrey.
Glamorgan....	4188	Tonna Builders, Glanllyuri, Maesteg, Bridgend.	Cancelled by request.
Yorks.	4237	Wensleydale Farmers' A., Dairy, Redmiro, Yorks.	Transferred engagements to 4295 Yorks.
London	4373	Literary Theatre, 20, St James-square, Notting Hill, W.	Cancelled for default.
Yorks.	4381	Holgate Gardens Estate, Messrs. Gray and Dodsworth's Office, Duncombe-place, York.	Final winding up notice.
Glamorgan ..	4386	Glyncorrwg Builders, 7, Dunraven-street, Glyncorrwg, Port Talbot.	Cancelled as ceased.
Pembroke	4416	Milford Haven C, 14, Priory-st., Milford Haven.	Final winding up notice.
London	4476	South Bermondsey C. Bank, St. Bartholomew's Parish Room, Verney-road, Rotherhithe New-road, S.E.	Cancelled by request.
Lincoln.....	4480	Wragby Egg and Poultry, Wydene, Wragby, Lincoln.	Dissolved by instrument.
London	4519	Blanchard's Amusements A., 53, Haymarket, S.W.	Cancelled for default.
London	4560	Traders' Combination, Montague, Close, London Bridge, S.E.	Final winding up notice.
Yorks.....	4602	South Crosland and Netherton Socialist Institute, Road Side, Netherton, Halifax.	Cancelled by request.
Durham	4612	Lanchester and District Workmen's Club, Club House, Lanchester, Durham.	Final winding up notice.
Northampton..	4638	Piddington, Hackleton, Horton and District Small Holdings and Allotments, Chapel-place, Piddington, Northampton.	Cancelled as ceased.
Northampton...	4666	Harpole Small Holdings and Allotments, 10, New-row, Harpole, Northampton.	Cancelled by request.
Northampton...	4689	Long Buckby and District Small Holdings and Allotments, Harbridge-lane, Long Buckby, Rugby.	Dissolved by instrument.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES—con.			
London	4697	Indo-European Trading, 16, Mornington-crescent, N W.	Cancelled for default.
Northampton...	4717	Yardley-Hastings Small Holdings and Allotments, The Reading Room, Yardley-Hastings, Northampton.	Cancelled by request.
Dorset... ..	4726	Buckhorn Weston Small Holdings, Buckhorn Weston, Wincanton, Somerset.	Cancelled as ceased.
Northampton...	4736	Brafield and District Small Holdings and Allotments, House of the Secretary, James Hollowell, near Co-op. Stores, Brafield Green, Northampton.	Cancelled as ceased.
Hants.	4741	Wherwell and District Poultry, Wherwell, Andover.	Dissolved by instrument.
Kent	4743	Westerham Allotment and Small Holders, Co-operative Stores, High-st., Westerham, Kent.	Final winding up notice.
Northampton..	4744	Wellingborough Small Holdings, 43, Grove-st., Wellingborough.	Dissolved by instrument.
London	4771	Co-operative General Investment and Protection Society of Great Britain, 4, London Wall Buildings, E.C.	Cancelled as ceased.
Lancs.....	4778	St. Helens Socialist Halls, 3, Old Ravenhead-cottages, St. Helens.	Dissolved by instrument.
Northampton..	4790	Welford and Sulby Small Holdings and Allotments, High-st., Welford, Rugby.	Cancelled as ceased.
Lincoln	4856	North Lindsey Farmers, Alkborough, Doncaster.	Cancelled by request.
Hereford.....	4865	Herefordshire Farmers' A., 69, Newmarket-street, Hereford.	Amalgamated with 3901 Gloucester.
Durham.....	4924	Heworth and District Social Club and Institute, White House, Heworth, Gateshead.	Cancelled for default.
Essex	4936	Wanstead Men's Meeting Institute, Overton House, High-st., Wanstead, N.E.	Dissolved by instrument.
Oxford	4968	Oxford Food Reform, 45, George-street, Oxford.	Cancelled as ceased.
Notts	4977	Cope's Estates, 51, Springfield-street, Nottingham	Cancelled for default.
London	4980	Metropolitan Exchange, 6, Northumberland-avenue, W.C.	Cancelled as ceased.
London	4983	Automobile Co-operative Association of Ireland, 1, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.	Cancelled as ceased.
Northumbrlnd.	5020	Wansbeck House Popular Social Club, Wansbeck House, Ashington, Northumberland.	Cancelled for default.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Bedford	5021	Renhold and District Poultry Depôt, Hillside, Renhold, Bedford.	Cancelled as ceased.
Middlesex	5047	Suburb Toilet Club, 166, Hampstead-way, Finchley-rd., N.W.	Dissolved by instrument.
Durham	5072	Bowden Close C., Bowden Close, Crook, co. Durham.	Final winding up notice.
Northumbrlnd.	5076	Westgate Working Men's Social Club, 8, Westgate Hill-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Cancelled for default.
Middlesex	5095	Brentham Supply and Toilet Club, 52, Pitshanger-road, Ealing, W.	Cancelled by request.
Lancs.	5097	Manchester People's Bank, 9, Mount-street, Manchester.	Cancelled as ceased.
Chester	5130	Sandbach Constitutional Club, The Thatched House, Sandbach, Cheshire.	Cancelled for default.
Bedford	5151	Arlesey Allotments and Small Holdings C., 2, St. Peter's-terrace, Arlesey, Beds.	Dissolved by instrument.
Essex	5162	Leigh-on-Sea Conservative and Unionist Club, Leigh Hill, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.	Converted to limited company.
Wilts.	5173	West Lavington Small Holders, House of Mr. T. J. Rarne, Littleton Panel, Wilts.	Cancelled by request.
London	5188	Tariff Reform Co-operative Trading A., Empire House, 175, Piccadilly, W.	Cancelled for default.
Hants.	5202	Basingstoke and District Small Holdings and Allotments, House of Mr. T. J. Girdler, Worting-road, Basingstoke.	Cancelled by request.
Wilts.	5205	Trowbridge Allotments and Small Holdings, 44, Granville-ter., Lower Studley, Trowbridge.	Cancelled by request.
London	5237	General Garden Development, 4 and 5, Adam-street, Adelphi, W.C.	Cancelled as ceased.
Lincoln	5282	Lincoln C. Small Holders, 52, Cromwell-street Lincoln.	Dissolved by instrument.
Northampton..	5301	Irchester Boot Manufacturers, East-street, Irchester, Wellingborough.	Final winding up notice.
London	5310	London Federation Institute, 39, Gerrard-street, Soho, W.	Cancelled by request.
Northumbrlnd.	5350	Newcastle Athletic Club, 79, Percy-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Cancelled as ceased.
London	5356	Southwark Housing, 166, Scovell-road, Southwark Bridge-road, S.E.	Dissolved by instrument.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
London	5363	Camberwell Conservative Club, 1, Brunswick-square, Camberwell, S.E.	Dissolved by instrument.
Hants.	5373	New Church and District Agricultural C., "Beaulieu," Borthwood, Sandown, Isle of Wight.	Cancelled by request.
Glamorgan....	5381	Ynysybwll C. Garden Village, 17, Church-st, Ynysybwll, Pontypridd.	Dissolved by instrument.
Dorset.....	5386	Buckland Newton and District Farmers' C., Cross Roads Farm, Pulham, Dorchester.	Cancelled by request.
Norfolk	5402	Outwell Small Holders, House of G. W. Bennett, Roslin House, Rectory-rd., Outwell, Wisbech.	Cancelled by request.
Warwick	5428	Coventry Sentinel C. Press, 7a, Broadgate, Coventry.	Cancelled as ceased.
Staffs.	5457	Perry Barr Small Holdings and Allotments, Saddlers' Arms, Alldridge-road, Perry Barr, Birmingham.	Dissolved by instrument.
Wilts.	5490	Winterslow Agricultural Trading, Roche Court, Winterslow, Salisbury.	Cancelled by request.
Devon.....	5515	Budleigh - Salterton Co-partnership Housing, 1, Frewins, Budleigh-Salterton, Devon.	Cancelled by request.
Kent	5517	Wigmore, Gillingham and District Small Holders, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent.	Dissolved by instrument.
Lancs.	5536	St. Andrew's Conservative Club, Wigan, Club Premises, Park-road, Wigan.	Cancelled as ceased.
Middlesex	5585	Harrow Coal Consumers' A, 12, Oakley-road, Harrow.	Dissolved by instrument.
Yorks.	5611	Easingwold and District C., Easingwold, Yorks.	Amalgamated with 171 Yorks.
Denbigh	5731	St. Asaph and District Agricultural C., Wygfair, St. Asaph, Flint.	Amalgamated with 5164 Flint.
Essex	5740	Hornchurch and District Small Holders' C., "Kenilworth," Osborne-road, Hornchurch, Romford.	Dissolved by instrument.

II.—SCOTLAND.

Name of Society.	Registered Office.	Cause of Removal.
Scottish C. Holiday A. (to United C. Baking.)	263, Wallace-street, Kingston, Glasgow.	Transfer of engagements.
Cupar Agricultural C.A.	67, Crossgate, Fife...	Instrument of dissolution.
Kiltarlity and District Agricultural C.	Tomnacross School-house, Kiltarlity.	Instrument of dissolution.
Walls and Hoy Agricultural C.	Longhope, Orkney...	Instrument of dissolution.
Wishaw Independent C.	154, Main-st., Wishaw	Instrument of dissolution.
Fyvie C. Dairy	Fyvie	Notice of winding up.
Montrose Baking and Trading	2, Union-place, Montrose.	Final notice of winding up.
Westbarns C.	Main-st., Westbarns..	Final notice of winding up.
Tarbolton Dairy A.	The Creamery, Tarbolton.	Request to cancel registry.
Rickarton Poultry	Rickarton, Stonehaven.	Request to cancel registry.
Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Public House.	British Linen Bank Buildings, Leven.	Request to cancel registry.

III.—IRELAND.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office.
Limerick	495	Kilfinane C. Agricultural and Dairy.
Galway	688	Athenry and District C. Bee Keepers.
Wexford	387	Ballycarney C. Farmers.
Queens'	185	Bullshill C. Agricultural and Dairy.
Fermanagh	381	Brookeboro' C. Lace.

V.—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

(See Report 19, page 100.)

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

(a) STATISTICS *re* EXAMINATIONS.

	Year 1914.	Year 1913.
Number of Entries for Examinations, excluding Junior and Intermediate Examinations	2,396	2,207
Number of Passes:—		
With Distinction	652	466
Without Distinction	923	906
Number of Failures	821	835

(b) CERTIFICATES ISSUED.

JUNIOR CLASSES IN CO-OPERATION.

Session.	Merit Certificate.	Attendance Certificate.
1913-14.....	5,575	6,283
1912-13.....	4,285	6,517

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

"Lives of Great Men and Women."

Session.	Prize.	Pass.
1913-14.....	41	246
1912-13.....	44	260

ADULT CLASSES.

	1914.	1913.
Co-operation.....	355	401
Industrial History	59	44
Citizenship ..	19	22
Economics	18	35
Economics of Co-operation	8	—
Co-operative Book-keeping	683	637
Teachers	—	—

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES.

	1914.	1913.
Apprentices	140	33
Salesmen	251	177
General Managers	34	30
Honours	8	7

SUMMARY of CERTIFICATES ISSUED.

	1914.		1913.
Junior Certificates.....	11,858	....	10,802
Intermediate	287	....	304
Adult	1,142	....	1,139
Management	433	....	247
	13,720	....	12,492

(c) GRANTS AND PRIZES.

JUNIOR CLASSES.

	1914.				1913.		
Local Examinations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Section I.	27	17	6	....	20	12	6
Section II.	17	12	6	....	14	15	0
Section III. (Co-operative Union)	14	17	6	....	13	0	0
Re-examination of Best Papers	1	0	0	....	1	0	0
	£60	17	6	....	£49	7	6

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

	1914.				1913.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Grants	4	12	6	....	3	12	6
Re-examination	3	0	0	....	3	0	0
	£7	12	6	....	£6	12	6

ADULT CLASSES.

	1914.				1913.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Grants	39	15	0	....	43	15	0
Prizes	7	12	6	....	7	15	0
	£47	7	6	....	£51	10	0

(d) CO-OPERATIVE UNION SCHOLARSHIPS.

Scholarships, enabling adult students to attend the Summer School for Co-operators at Arnside, were awarded to the following students:—

Subject.	Name.	Town.
Co-operation	*S. A. Purdie	Plymouth.
"	Mrs. H. Lawton	Manchester.
"	*W. G. Scutt	Dover.
"	Miss Wallace	Skelton.
"	Miss A. Rudd	Sheffield.
"	M. Reid	Middlesbro'.
Industrial History	*R. J. Verth	Leith.
Citizenship	J. S. Rogerson	Kidderminster.
Economics (old syllabus) ..	Mrs. E. Dunham	Plymouth.

Economics (new syllabus) ..	(No scholarship awarded).
Economics of Co-operation..	{ W. J. Maxwell Brown .. Paisley.
	{ J. Widdup Nelson
Co-operative Book-keeping..	G. Ferguson Alloa.

* Scholarship held over till 1915 School.

BLANDFORD SCHOLARSHIPS.

The two scholarships of the value of £10 each, awarded in open competition in the subject of Co-operation (Third Stage), were won by Mr. E. Rennison, Bradford, and Miss Herbert, of Boxmoor. Mr. Rennison elected to spend the value of the scholarship in a co-operative tour on the Continent, mainly to study Belgium co-operation. An interesting report of his visit was submitted to the committee, and afterwards printed in pamphlet form for general circulation. Miss Herbert attended the summer school at Arnside for three weeks, and intended to devote some time to studying British co-operation in two or three large centres, but the railway service in August last prevented this part of the programme being carried out.

REPORT FOR SESSION 1914-15.

(a) CLASSES FORMED.

	Session 1914-15.	Session 1913-14.	Increase.	Decrease.
Co-operation—Junior	329	328	1	—
Intermediate Classes ("Lives of Great Men and Women") ..	31	24	7	—
Co-operation—Adult	24	25	—	1
Industrial History	6	12	—	6
Citizenship	2	5	—	3
Economics	2	2	—	—
Economics of Co-operation	1	1	—	—
Co-operative Book-keeping	75	107	—	32
Co-operative Management:—				
Apprentices and Junior Em- ployés	17	17	—	—
Salesmen	25	19	6	—
General Managers (Corres- pondence)	1	1	—	—
Honours (Correspondence)....	1	1	—	—
Training Course for Secretaries (Correspondence).....	1	1	—	—
Training Course for Auditors (Correspondence).....	1	—	1	—
Classes for Women Co-operators:—				
England and Wales	14	12	2	—
Scotland	7	2	5	—

Special Classes held at Holyoake

House :—

Elocution	4 ..	3 ..	1 ..	—
*Economic History	1 ..	1 ..	— ..	—
*Literature	1 ..	1 ..	— ..	—
*Industrial History	— ..	1 ..	— ..	1
*General History	— ..	1 ..	— ..	1

543	564
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Total, Session 1914-15 543 Classes.

Total, Session 1913-14 564 „

Decrease..... 21

(b) STUDENTS ENROLLED.

	Session 1914-15.	Session 1913-14.	Increase.	Decrease.
Co-operation—Junior.....	15969 ..	16777 ..	— ..	808
Intermediate Classes ("Lives of Great Men and Women")....	743 ..	737 ..	6 ..	—
Co-operation—Adult	405 ..	463 ..	— ..	58
Industrial History	43 ..	211 ..	— ..	168
Citizenship	43 ..	87 ..	— ..	44
Economics	25 ..	16 ..	9 ..	—
Economics of Co-operation	10 ..	14 ..	— ..	4
Co-operative Book-keeping	1286 ..	2119 ..	— ..	833
Co-operative Management:—				
Apprentice and Junior Em- ployés.....	260 ..	247 ..	13 ..	—
Salesmen	478 ..	431 ..	40 ..	—
General Managers	25 ..	37 ..	— ..	12
Honours	3 ..	7 ..	— ..	4
Training Course for Secretaries ..	43 ..	45 ..	— ..	2
Training Course for Auditors	16 ..	— ..	16 ..	—
Classes for Women Co-operators..	615 ..	682 ..	— ..	67
Special Classes held at Holyoake House :—				
Elocution	114 ..	80 ..	34 ..	—
*Economic History	8 ..	16 ..	— ..	8
*Literature.....	8 ..	14 ..	— ..	6
*Industrial History	— ..	12 ..	— ..	12
*General History	— ..	15 ..	— ..	15

20094	22010
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Total Number of Students: Session 1914-15 20094

Total Number of Students: Session 1913-14 22010

Decrease..... 1916

• Tutorial Classes.

TRAINING OF CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES.

(a) SALESMEN'S CLASSES.

Section.	Place.	Teacher.	Students enrolled.
Midland	Grimsby.....	Mr. H. Ayres.....	12
"	Mansfield and Sutton	Mr. E. F. Fletcher	26
"	Nottingham	Mr. A. Judd	11
Northern	Bishop Auckland	Mr. R. J. Wilson.....	17
"	" " (Shildon)		16
"	Newbigin.....		27
North-Western	Bradford	Mr. H. Silversides	16
" "	Buckley.....	Mr. H. Arundale	15
" "	Burslem.....	Mr. G. W. Brooks	25
" "	Dewsbury	Mr. D. Milnes	13
" "	Leeds.....	Mr. H. Silversides	14
" "	Liverpool	Mr. W. Lomas.....	22
" "	Manchester :		
	(Wednesday) ..	Mr. J. Lea	20
" "	Nelson	Mr. F. Taylor	19
" "	Oldham	Mr. A. Walker	25
" "	Sheffield	Mr. J. Morris	11
Scottish	Edinburgh	Mr. J. Taylor.....	12
"	Glasgow	Mr. A. Hunter	15
"	Kirkcaldy	Mr. J. Marr	19
Southern	Woolwich	Under L.C.C. Auspices	15
South-Western	Radstock	Mr. T. W. Gent	15
Western	Aberdare	Mr. T. Davies	21
"	Cwmbach	Mr. W. J. Phillips	29
Correspondence Section :			
Salesmen		Mr. T. M. Young	63
General Managers	}	Mr. R. J. Wilson	25
Honours			3

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE ON CLASSES IN CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.

Session.	Expenditure.			Fees Received.			Deficit paid by Co-op. Union.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1905-6	287	7	7	174	15	0	112	12	7
1906-7	272	19	2	185	15	0	87	4	2
1907-8	291	19	4	156	10	6	135	8	10
1908-9	252	13	7	147	19	0	104	14	7
1909-10	207	11	5	110	0	6	97	10	11
1910-11	155	13	7	105	6	6	50	7	1
1911-12	175	7	11	116	2	6	59	5	5
1912-13	254	19	3	137	14	6	117	4	9
1913-14	280	1	9	174	6	6	105	15	3

EXAMINATIONS.

DATES.

Junior Classes—

Class day during week (1st March to 6th March).

Intermediate Classes—

“Lives of Great Men and Women.” Class day during week 8th March to 13th March.

Adult Classes—

Co-operative Book-keeping .. Wednesday, 17th March.

Citizenship Monday, 22nd March.

Industrial History Tuesday, 23rd March.

Co-operation Wednesday, 24th March.

Economics Thursday, 25th March.

Economics of Co-operation.. Monday, 29th March.

Employés' Training Classes—

Apprentices and Junior Employés: Class day during week commencing 26th April.

Salesmen

General Managers } Class day during week commencing 3rd May.

Honours

Secretaries: June.

Auditors: July.

STUDENTS FOR EXAMINATION.

	1915.	1914.
Co-operation—Juniors: Sec. III. (Written)	2060	2050
" " Sec. II. (Local)	2709	2297
" " Sec. I. (Local)	5000	5107
Intermediate Classes	480	529
Co-operation—Adults	524	520
Industrial History	40	113
Citizenship	13	46
Economics	27	26
Economics of Co-operation	6	14
Co-operative Book-keeping	1080	1700
" Auditing (November, 1914) .....	..	11
Training Centres for Co-operative Employés—Appren-		
tices and Junior Employés—Part I.	107	99
" II.	173	177
Salesmen	368	348
General Managers	58	46
Honours	8	11
Training Course for Co-operative Secretaries	*	22
Training Classes for Teachers .....		..
Total, 1915		12653
" 1914		13143

The papers returned were as follows:—

Co-operation—Adults	355	386
Industrial History.....	22	74
Citizenship	7	19
Economics	15	21
Economics of Co-operation.....	6	8
Co-operative Book-keeping	835	1370
„ Auditing (November) .....	..	38
Training Centres for Co-operative Employés—Appren- tices and Junior Employés—Part II.	†	159
Salesmen.....	†	305
General Managers.....	†	44
Honours	†	11
Training Class for Teachers .....	..	..
Junior Classes in Co-operation—		
Re-examination of Best Papers	98	125
Intermediate Classes—		
Re-examination of Best Papers	48	54

* Incomplete.

† Examination not yet held.

EASTER WEEK-END, 1915, OXFORD

PROGRAMME ARRANGED

Thursday, 1st April.—Evening: Reception of Delegates. Welcome by Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. (Chairman of Ruskin College), Mr. A. L. Smith, M.A. (Senior Dean of Balliol College), and Mr. L. L. Price, M.A. (Fellow of Oriol).

Friday, 2nd April.—Morning: Visits to colleges and other places of interest. Afternoon: Co-operative Students' Fellowship Sixth Annual Meeting. Chairman, Mr. W. R. Rae. After consideration and adoption of annual report, address by Rev. A. J. Carlyle, M.A., D.Litt. (University College), on "The Unity of Human Life." Evening: Social Meeting. Musical programme provided by the Oxford Co-operative Educational Committee. Address by Mr. E. King (President, Oxford Co-operative Society). Subject, "Oxford and the Co-operative Movement."

Saturday, 3rd April.—Morning: Visits (continued). Morning: Fourth Annual Meeting of National Co-operative Men's Guild. Chairman, Mr. W. H. Watkins. Business: Adoption of Annual Report; consideration of resolutions sent in by branches; amendment of rules. Afternoon: Annual Conference of Teachers, &c. Chairman, Mr. W. R. Rae. Address by Mr. H. Sanderson Furniss, M.A. (Tutor and Lecturer in Economics, Ruskin College). Subject, "Co-operation and National Welfare." Evening: Meeting. Chairman, Mr. W. R. Rae. Speaker, Mr. A. L. Smith, M.A. (Senior Dean of Balliol College). Subject, "University Life."

Sunday, 4th April.—Afternoon: P.S.A. Meeting. Chairman, Mr. W. Clayton. Address by Professor W. G. S. Adams, M.A. (Gladstone Professor of Political Theory and Institutions). Subject: "Co-operation after the War." Evening: United Service (arranged by the Oxford Concord Association). Meeting in the Corn Exchange.

Monday, 5th April.—Morning: Visit to the Observatory. Address by Professor H. H. Turner, F.R.S. (Savilian Professor of Astronomy). Subject, "Co-operation in the Heavens." Afternoon: River Excursion to Abingdon by steam launch. Evening: Concluding Meeting. Chairman, Mr. J. Lucas, M.A. Address by Mr. W. R. Rae. Subject, "By Way of Remembrance."

SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL FOR CO-OPERATORS.

REPORT.

The Summer School of 1914—the second organised under the auspices of the Central Education Committee—was a great success. Despite the dislocation caused by the war—the attendance would have been 50 per cent greater but for the war—there was an average attendance of nearly forty persons per week for the whole month of August. For a second attempt at organising such a school the success is remarkable. First year, twenty persons a week for two weeks; second year, forty persons a week for four weeks; what numerical success will the third school reach? We are far from reckoning the success of the school wholly by numbers; but, believing that the mission of the school is a good one, we are anxious it should reach as many co-operators as possible.

The real things that tell are, of course, the knowledge gained, the companionships formed, and the stimulus given to co-operative effort. Intertwined with all these is the new spirit created or developed, something intangible that defies description, but existent, powerful enough to give pulsating pleasure to the recollections of those who are present, and to cause the students of the last school to form already a nucleus of students for the next. Therein is a source of strength for the co-operative movement—perhaps the germ of strength for a forward movement in co-operative endeavour—for it brings realisation and the strong conviction that in co-operation we can gain desirable things that can never be ours in isolation. There *must* be something in the Summer School when it draws so many together for a second and third time, and fills them with happy memories and pleasant anticipations of the Summer School, as well as giving them greater interest in, and strength for, co-operative work.

The school this time was favoured in many respects. Inglemere, the headquarters, is well equipped for the scholastic, domestic, and recreative sides; Arnside, as a centre for walks, drives, rail and water excursions, is almost unsurpassable. Some will tell of the new outlook upon co-operation which they have gained through attending the school; they say there is more in co-operation than ever they dreamed of;

others will tell of the gain of knowledge and methods that will help them in their co-operative teaching and other work, and with it all of happy companionships formed; others will say they looked forward to their week at Arnside as the sacrifice of a holiday for the sake of a week's "schooling," but found they got the best holiday they ever had, and at the same time the most profitable week, educationally, they ever spent. The fact is, that the holidays we enjoy most are those which are most useful—useful in the sense of giving us health and pleasure while they last and pleasant memories when they are over. And our satisfaction with our holiday is increased if, besides the physical gain, there is mental gain as well. Time does not hang on one's hands at a Summer School, and, without making it a toil, the educational work of the Summer School makes the holiday feel more useful and increases one's satisfaction with it.

The representative character of the school was again remarkable. The lecture list included representatives of the Co-operative Union, Women's Guild, Men's Guild, the Wholesale Society, the Productive Federation, the International Alliance, the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, and the Students' Fellowship. The students included some from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and all parts of England from Northumberland to Devon. There were teachers, committee-men, educational secretaries, and employés, all contributing their special knowledge and pooling it for the common good; all giving, yet not losing, but gaining. The potentialities of the Summer School are great; and few, if any, undertakings launched by the co-operative movement contain so much promise. We look forward with confident anticipation to a great development in the future.

CO-OPERATIVE STUDENTS' FELLOWSHIP.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The state of war is that of the denial of Fellowship. If, as is sometimes stated, all action, good or ill, is the outcome of previous thought, it is clear that much thinking is required on lines of which the Fellowship can heartily approve, in order that permanent peace may be ensured.

On account of the war the work of the Fellowship has suffered chiefly in two ways. First, the war broke out just prior to the time when the organisation of winter programmes is usually taken in hand, and so diverted the attention of those responsible for their production to other things. Second, its continuance and the resulting general disturbance of social life have prevented arrangements which had been made from being carried out in a satisfactory way. Despite these difficulties, however, progress has been made, as will hereafter appear.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The last Annual Meeting of the Fellowship was held at Saltburn on the afternoon of Good Friday. It formed, as usual, an item in the proceedings at the Easter Week-end. Mr. W. R. Rae, the president, took the

chair. There was a good attendance of members, and a full agenda was dealt with, and, following the business, a paper entitled "Fellowship in Service" was read by Principal F. B. Jevons, of Durham University. A brief but interesting discussion ensued. In view of the then unlooked for war, the concluding paragraph of Principal Jevons' paper is of special interest, if not of prophetic significance. Therein it was said: "War—industrial war—is sometimes a necessary evil. But in what sense is that evil, or any evil, necessary? It is necessary when it is forced on us. But it is not necessary that it should ever be forced on us. If and when it is forced on us, it is forced on us by someone who chooses to do so, who has it in his choice whether he will or will not force it on us. It is the free choice of somebody, and that somebody is guilty of offending against the fundamental law of society—the law without which society can neither come into being nor continue to exist—the law of fellowship in service."

The whole of the resolutions submitted to the meeting were carried. They were—

1. That it is desirable that sectional secretaries should be appointed to complete the organisation of the Fellowship.
2. That the persons so appointed, together with the joint secretaries, constitute a National Council.
3. That arrangements be made for the annual renewal of the declaration of Fellowship, and that only those members making such renewal be regarded as in active membership.
4. That the following subjects be discussed by the Fellowship during the year :—
 - (a) A national co-operative policy.
 - (b) The present limitations upon the amount of share capital a member may hold in a society.
 - (c) A national co-operative reserve fund.
 - (d) Continuation work by junior students. Can the Fellowship help?
 - (e) The relation of co-operation to agriculturé.
5. That the constitution of the Co-operative Students' Fellowship be as under, viz. :—The Fellowship shall comprise the following :—
 - (a) Students who in any adult class held under the auspices of the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union have by attendance qualified themselves for examination.
 - (b) Students who in any adult "without examination" class have been awarded the attendance certificate.
 - (c) Other persons who, not having been students in a class, have taught any class recognised by the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union or held any certificate awarded to adults by this committee.

- (d) Other persons who, having been specially nominated by any of the districts of the Fellowship, shall be admitted by approval of the Central Education Committee, which committee shall act in this capacity pending the appointment of a National Council of the Fellowship.
6. That this annual Meeting of the Students' Fellowship heartily approves of the proposal to establish a Co-operative College, and welcomes the action of the Central Education Committee, with the consent of the United Board, in convening a preliminary conference of representatives from official organisations within the movement to consider the advisability of establishing the College, and urges upon the conference the desirability of taking the necessary steps to bring the College into existence.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The membership of the Fellowship has been increased by the admission of forty-five new members during the year, and it now stands at almost 800. It is hoped shortly to complete and forward the eighth hundred membership list. By the adoption of the amended constitution it has been possible to include many enthusiastic educationists, among them being Mr. John Swift, of Leeds, who is 80 years of age.

ORGANISATION.

Although organising work has not been completely at a standstill, the progress expected from the passing of certain of the resolutions at the last annual meeting, it must be admitted, has not been made. The reasons for this have been stated in the opening paragraphs of this report. The circumstances are at present adverse, but it is a matter for consideration what steps, if any, can now be taken by way of preparation for the time when the conditions for such work will have become more favourable. With such object it may be now deemed wise to proceed with the appointment of the National Council, provided that eligible persons can be secured for the work. Upon this point a full discussion would probably be of assistance.

DISTRICT WORK.

There has been considerable interference with the work in the districts during the war period, as reports from the various districts show. Little could or can be done from the Central Office under the circumstances in respect to this. The work is such that it must be done in the different localities, and only there and by the people there residing. Yet it is worthy of note that certain districts seem to have been little, if anything, affected by external events, and amongst these may be mentioned the Cheshire and North Wales District, the North and South Metropolitan District, and particularly the Leeds Sub-district and the North-East Lancashire District.

The work done by the last mentioned in regard to the establishment of classes is remarkable. To achieve such success in ordinary times would have been noteworthy. The example is one which might be emulated in every district. No better work could possibly be taken in hand.

A factor other than the war which seems to have interfered with the formal gatherings of the Fellowship in many districts is the occupation of members in some or other aspect of the work of the local societies. This cannot be regretted, for where members of the Fellowship are there will the Fellowship spirit spread and the function of the Fellowship be performed. But it would appear necessary for more attention being paid to the entry of new members, so that a continuous supply of men and women, enthusiastic and capable, may be available for the ever increasing number of positions of usefulness and influence in the movement which have to be filled.

At present, too, the rapid development of the National Co-operative Men's Guild is absorbing much of the energy of many of the more active spirits in the Fellowship. This, too, cannot be regarded as a loss, but rather as an investment of time and thought which will presently be repaid to the Fellowship with interest, and prove, further, a great gain to the co-operative movement as a whole.

MONTHLY LETTER AND MONTHLY REPORTS.

Circumstances have prevented the despatch of the monthly letter to the districts with the regularity expected at the beginning of the year. It is hoped in the near future that conditions may become more favourable and resumption follow.

Similarly, the monthly reports from secretaries of districts have been less numerous than heretofore. Some secretaries have, however, with unflinching regularity supplied the local *Records* and *Wheat-sheafs* with reports of their work and forwarded copies of these to the Central Office. The practice is in every way commendable and useful.

FELLOWSHIP NOTES IN THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS."

The columns of the *News* have been available throughout the past year, as in previous years, for the publication of "Notes" on matters of interest to the Fellowship. From secretaries of districts and members generally communications expressing their views on important questions are welcome at all times for insertion and discussion in these "Notes."

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION'S EXAMINATIONS.

Members of the Fellowship have again proved themselves consistent students by the positions they have taken on the annual examination list for 1914, published by the Co-operative Union. It is hoped and believed that, as far as possible, they will endeavour to carry out in action the principles with which they have become acquainted in study, and, further, that they will exercise such influence as they possess with their fellow students in inducing the latter to enter the Fellowship ranks.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Summer School.—The second Summer School, arranged on far more ambitious lines than the first, was held in August at Arnside. But for the disturbing influence of the war it would have been pronounced an unqualified success. As it was, no less than 140 persons attended during the period the school was open. As in the previous year, a large proportion of those present were Fellowship members, as were practically all of those who took a prominent part in the work. The carrying on of such a school in the movement is a Fellowship undertaking in the best sense of the term. That members of the Fellowship realise this is quite certain, and also that they will deem their duty to make the school or schools which may be opened in coming years still more successful in every possible way. Arnside has again been selected for the Summer School of 1915.

The Co-operative College.—Since the date of the last annual meeting the conference then referred to in regard to the establishment of a College has been held. A very representative assembly came together as the result of the invitation sent out by the United Board of the Co-operative Union, and the opinions expressed were overwhelmingly in favour of the project.

Research.—Conditions have interfered with the development of this work during the year. That undertaken last year was largely experimental, and to that extent useful as showing what might with advantage be taken in hand under favourable circumstances. Further developments will, it is hoped, be possible when the next forward move in matters educational is made.

Appointment of Adviser of Studies.—This report of the year's work would be incomplete without mention of the appointment of our fellow-member, Mr. Fred Hall, M.A., to the position of Adviser of Studies to the Co-operative Union. The appointment, made jointly by the United Board and the Central Education Committee, has been well received throughout the movement. In many respects this is the most important step, educationally speaking, taken during the year, and the Fellowship, as a whole, will join in congratulating alike the Co-operative Union and their fellow-member, Professor Hall, upon it.

THANKS.

Thus the report of last year's activities comes to an end. Before concluding it, thanks must be cordially expressed to all who have assisted in the work or made any portion of it possible of accomplishment. Not all who have done either can possibly be enumerated, but for having given opportunities for attendance of Fellowship members at conferences and meetings, the various Sectional Boards, District Conference Associations, Educational Committees' Associations, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Women's and Men's Guilds may be, and are, specially mentioned. Special thanks are also tendered to the *Co-operative News* and the co-operative press generally for giving publicity to reports of meetings, thus making the

Fellowship and its doings known in the movement, to serve which is the reason for the Fellowship's existence.

W. R. RAE, President.	
W. H. WATKINS,	} Joint Secretaries.
C. E. WOOD,	

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

President : W. R. RAE (Chairman, Central Education Committee).

Chairman : W. H. WATKINS (Plymouth).

F. A. GIBBINS (Brighton), A. HOLLANDS (Willesden), C. F. HOUSEMAN (Liverpool)
W. R. JACKSON (Edmonton), A. PARK (Failsworth), J. PRUDEN (Ten Acres),
C. H. RUSSELL (Birkenhead), JOHN SMITH (Eastwood), A. J. TAPPING (Derby),
R. WEARE (Wallasey), J. T. WOOD (Bradford).

Joint { W. CHAS. POTTER, 61, Ingleby Road, Ilford, London, E.

Secretaries : { C. E. WOOD, Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester.

In common with most other institutions, the Men's Guild has severely felt the baneful influence of the great war. The war is, of course, the dominating influence at the moment, and in submitting the fourth annual report we fervently hope that the next annual report will be written under happier auspices. During the year we have added a thousand members to the guild, but this number would undoubtedly have been greatly augmented but for the war. The autumn is the greatest period of recruiting activity with the guild, but new efforts and new activities were diverted to other channels, and consequently the establishment of many new branches has been postponed. A table showing the membership is given below. It will be noticed that a branch has been established in Scotland (Clydebank) during the year.

CONFERENCES.

Pursuing the policy of holding conferences in various parts of the country in order to make the existence of the Guild more widely known and to propagate its principles as far as possible, the National Council, in conjunction with the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union, have arranged meetings in the Alexandra Palace (London), Sheffield, and Manchester, through the courtesy of the Edmonton, Brightside and Carbrook, and Co-operative Wholesale societies respectively. The London and Manchester meetings were particularly well attended. At the last mentioned addresses were delivered by Messrs. W. Lander and G. Thorpe (members of the committee of the Co-operative Wholesale Society); and it may here be stated that arrangements are in hand to hold conferences during 1915 at Newcastle, Bristol, and London, at which places the same two gentlemen

have kindly consented to give further addresses. The sectional boards, district conference associations, and educational committees' associations of the Co-operative Union have extended the privilege of attending their meetings to the Men's Guild branches.

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

Branches have been somewhat slow in forming district councils. Only one has been formed during the year, viz., the Birmingham District Council, and even this is not yet firmly established. The National Council proposes to give this matter special attention during the year, as it is one of prime importance to the Guild. They have already decided to make a grant of half a guinea per annum to the district councils as they are formed. District councils should be the means of infusing interest and vitality into the local branches, providing speakers, initiating new branches, and arousing a spirit of comradeship in the members. How useful district councils can be is shown by the work of the Mersey and London district councils. Both have established several new branches in their respective areas, and have held useful mass meetings of the members of affiliated branches. In both instances the councils are growing in influence greatly and are appreciably affecting the progress and development of the co-operative movement in their districts.

WORK IN THE BRANCHES.

The chief feature of the year has been the publication of outlines for a series of six addresses on "The History and Development of the Co-operative Movement," for the use of branches. The addresses are designed with the idea that each one shall form the basis of discussion at an ordinary branch meeting, and excite the members to take a deeper interest in the movement they desire to serve. They are necessarily brief, and, while not pretending to cover the whole ground, they give those in attendance at the meetings definite knowledge of the structure and workings of the co-operative movement. Many branches report that the series has been very helpful, and it is intended to publish them in pamphlet form for the use of new branches. Their titles are as follow :—

1. The Co-operative Store : Why it was founded and why it became a success.
2. The Management of a Co-operative Store.
3. The Co-operative Wholesale Society.
4. The Co-operative Union.
5. Co-operative Education.
6. International Co-operation.

Generally, the branches have been engaged in the useful work of attracting men co-operators to the co-operative movement. Undoubtedly a mass of co-operative opinion and policy is being formed in the Guild through its various branches, which will soon be of some weight in the movement.

Many devices are hit upon to make the branch gatherings interesting.

Some organise motor 'bus trips to neighbouring societies which have no Guild branches, and impress upon their hosts over the teacups the desirability of forming a branch; others pay fraternal visits to neighbouring branches, and engage in friendly discussions; others, again, visit the productive works of the Co-operative Wholesale Society or the local society; some send deputations to trade union branches and local trades and labour councils in order to enlist sympathy for the co-operative movement; some affiliate to these latter, and some are affiliated to the local branches of the Workers' Educational Association. Most branches hold whist drives and socials and often hold these in conjunction with the Women's Guild branches and the local Students' Fellowship centres. One branch formed an adult choir, which has become a great asset to the local education committee. In these and in many other ways the branches are developing the true co-operative spirit. Mention must again be made of the generous help accorded the branches by management and educational committees, without which the work of the Guild would be seriously hampered.

Naturally, the attendances at meetings have been seriously interfered with by the war, a large number of members having joined the colours; but those who are compelled to stay at home are working hard against the time when militarism and armament mongering are crushed, and the workers of the world are prepared to take their share in the benefits—all the benefits—of a hard won peace.

FINANCE.

As will be seen from the cash statement, the finances of the Guild continue to be healthy. Our best thanks are due to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which has kindly renewed the grant of £50 made last year; to the Co-operative Union, for the generous help given to us; and to the Co-operative Productive Federation. The management and educational committees of societies have in the great majority of cases been most generous in their help to the various branches. In many cases not only is house room provided, but the printing is paid for, and, in addition, a grant is made for incidental expenses.

JOINT COMMITTEE WITH THE WOMENS' GUILD.

Our relations with the Women's Guild have remained most friendly and cordial. Both in the districts and centrally our sister guild has willingly given us all the help possible. In the fore part of the year a dispute between the Women's Guild and the Co-operative Union was brewing. The outbreak of war has naturally submerged smaller internecine strifes, and we hope that the inevitable postponement will enable the spirit of reasonableness, fair play, and justice to prevail. Naturally, the deliberations of the joint committee of the two guilds largely hinged upon the relations of the guilds to the Co-operative Union. Several schemes of joint work are being considered, and will be developed when happier times prevail.

Mrs. Barton, of the Central Committee, brought the good wishes of the

Women's Guild to the annual meeting of the Men's Guild, and Mr. John Smith, of the National Council, reciprocated at the Women's Guild Congress, at Birmingham.

THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS."

The *Co-operative News* again deserves and has our sincere thanks for allowing us a monthly column, and publishing reports of conferences and branch meetings. We again impress upon all branches the desirability of pushing the sale of the *News*, the recognised organ of the co-operative movement, as much as possible. We have also to thank many local editors of *Wheatheafs* and magazines for the publication of many articles and agendas of branches.

REVISION OF RULES.

The National Council is recommending to the annual meeting of 1915 certain alterations to the rules which have either become necessary owing to the expansion of the Guild, or are considered desirable to facilitate the organisation of the National Guild movement.

* CASH STATEMENT.

Receipts.			Payments.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance	38	1 1	By Meetings and Conferences—		
„ Subscriptions, Guild Branches..	25	2 2	Birmingham	0	10 7
„ Donations	52	10 6	London	14	8 9
„ Associates	0	4 0	Manchester	3	0 0
„ Sale of Badges and Guild Publica-			Middlesboro'	16	6 1
tions	10	7 1	Newport	15	3 5
			Sheffield	14	12 6
			Sutton Coldfield	0	9 2
			„ Hire of Rooms	0	15 0
			„ Purchase of Badges	11	9 3
			„ Printing	37	17 9
			„ Postages	6	15 5
			„ Balance	4	16 11
	£126	4 10		£126	4 10

* This Cash Account will be audited along with the other accounts of the Co-operative Union, by Mr. T. Wood, Public Auditor.

A CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE.

Conference of Representatives from the Central Organisations of the Co-operative Movement.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

This conference was held at Holyoake House, Manchester, on Saturday, 9th May, 1914. Mr. W. Gregory (chairman of the Office Committee of the Co-operative Union) presided. There were also present the members of the Central Education Committee and delegates from the following organisations:—United Board, Irish Conference Association, Co-operative Wholesale Society, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Co-operative Productive Federation, Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Co-operative Secretaries' Association, National Co-operative Managers' Association, Co-operative

Newspaper Society, various Educational Committees' Associations, English Women's Guild, National Co-operative Men's Guild, Co-operative Students' Fellowship, and Co-operative *College Herald* Circle; also Mr. A. Whitehead (General Secretary) and Mr. C. E. Wood (Educational Secretary).

Apologies for non-representation were read from the Irish Women's Guild, but approving the proposal to establish a Co-operative College; from the Scottish Women's Guild; from the *Scottish Co-operator*, also approving the holding of the conference; and letters from Lord Shaftesbury and Mr. Fitzherbert Brockholes (the appointed representatives of the English Agricultural Wholesale Society), regretting the intervention of other business at the last moment.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, expressed the pleasure it gave him to see such a representative gathering. The United Board had convened the conference because of the importance of the subject and the desirability of ascertaining how deep and how wide the desire for the college was. In view of the importance of the subject, he hoped there would be a free and frank discussion of the proposals. Later on, a resolution would be put forward if thought desirable. He would ask Mr. Rae (chairman of the Central Education Committee) to introduce the subject.

Mr. RAE said that the demand of the workers for education up to university standard was not new. It was early seen that the best leaders, the necessary leaders, would be trained from within. The Rochdale Pioneers, with wonderful insight, saw the necessity for what is called the "broad highway" in education. In recent years the demand had gained new force through the Students' Fellowship, the members of which—imbued with a sense of their motto, "Through knowledge to service," and deeply conscious of its higher meanings—had made college training a plank in their platform. It was natural. It was the sequence of the educational work now carried on. "When we remember that in sixteen years no fewer than 126,000 juniors and 52,000 adults have entered co-operative classes which lead them up to the gates of a college, we cannot but see that there must be a great number who are eminently desirous of going further." By attendance and examination work they had proved the reality of their claim, which we must either meet or be under the charge of bringing our seekers after the fruits of knowledge to the gate and denying them access to the ripe fruit clustering within. Both the old and new universities, by reason of their environment, curricula, and length of terms, were unsuitable. We did not want men to be divorced from their fellows. We had been frequently reminded that what we needed we must ourselves provide. A Co-operative College or University was to be considered, broadly, as opportunities offered to those who desire to live and serve in a co-operative atmosphere. Special places, appointed times, and fine buildings did not stand for very much in the scheme. They were not to be despised, but they must all be subordinate to the central idea. It was the lesson that mattered. What, then, was wanted? (a) Immediately the development of Holyoake House, with one

or more affiliated boarding-houses attached, to which the most eager students could be brought. The Summer School-idea needed to be much extended, and schools established in different parts of the United Kingdom. (b) In the future a permanent building, specially designed and equipped. Immediately, too, research and the collection of statistical and other information could be undertaken. All this would cost money, but on this matter he could only speak vaguely and for himself. He thought the Union might earmark a sum annually for the work, that the two Wholesale Societies might contribute, and that societies with an educational grant might give 1 per cent of their grant. In preparation for the time when the building was required, societies might be asked to make interest-free investments in easy instalments. But the present was not the time for these details. What he was most anxious about was the future of our educational work. The Week-end Schools proved that the thirst for higher education was real and not ephemeral. He wanted to see the educational organisation crowned by a centre where men and women imbued with the true co-operative spirit would train other men and women and send them out into the world baptised into an intenser desire to help their fellows to new things in industry, and equipped for leadership when the reconstruction of industrial relationships became more intensely necessary.

Miss M. LLEWELYN DAVIES (General Secretary, the Women's Co-operative Guild) said the time was ripe among co-operators for a great forward educational movement. More chances were needed for co-operative ideas to grow and refashion themselves. If the spirit of co-operation was to live, it must necessarily be differently clothed in different generations. Many had come to think that a Co-operative College would be the best means of bringing fresh life and active direction into the movement, and of making its force more felt in national industrial questions. Along what lines were we to advance? What further contributions could we make to industrial democracy? What was to be the future place of co-operation in the national life? A centre of education ought, she thought, to supply the material for answering these questions. She thought the word "College" might mislead, because she visualised the work as being much different, much more practical, and more closely related to living problems than the work of the usual type of college. The object of our education would not be the "getting on" of individuals, but the advancement of our movement. She mentioned several branches of research work that the College might undertake, and referred also to the relations of the movement with trade-unionism, the possible establishment of workshop committees, the formation of boards of conciliation, as being subjects upon which the College could supply up-to-date information. It could send investigators to home and foreign centres, collect and tabulate facts relating to British and foreign industrial experiments, and reproduce in popular form the newest ideas, and suggest lines of study and action. We had the funds, the industrial laboratories, and men and women of capacity to do the work. But the College, besides being a storehouse of ideas and an interpreter of facts and

figures, and a suggestor of activities and policies, should be a sending-off ground of men and women missionaries. These, on returning to their district, would form an out-door staff of the College, would teach and would help to keep the various educational agencies in touch with the College, and help to secure the attendance of students at the College, where short courses for periods from a week to a year should be provided. We could without difficulty make a start at Holyoake House with a rented hostel. A staff of three, one of whom should be a woman, could act as teachers and investigators. Outside lecturers, who were authorities in particular subjects, might be employed to supplement the permanent staff. These lecturers should be practical rather than academic men, *e.g.*, a trade union leader, a sweated or unemployed worker, a Government official, a town councillor, &c.

An interesting discussion followed.

Mr. JARMAN (Secretaries' Association) said that it seemed to him the expense mentioned by Mr. Rae would not be additional to present expenditure. In the proposal for developing work at Holyoake House, he did not see that any extra expense would be incurred other than for research work and the proposed hostel.

Mr. T. KILLON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) thought the £2,500 annual income suggested as necessary by Mr. Rae would be inadequate, and that this was only the thin end of the wedge. Mr. Rae had mentioned the figures as being his own estimate, but he (Mr. Killon) wished to know who were the real authors of the scheme. He thought they were on the wrong track, and should start in the home. He wished to know who the students would be. He thought they ought to discuss general principles, and then submit the question to the movement as a whole. Nobody should go where they could not carry the movement with them.

Mrs. BOOTH (Women's Guild) said, in reference to Mr. Killon's remarks, that they were creating a co-operative atmosphere in the home by the children's classes, it was adults who needed the training which the College would provide. They were likely to think too much of the cost. The same arguments were always met at ordinary business meetings, but the money was always easily found.

Mr. H. ARCHER (Irish Conference Association) said that they in Ireland were in hearty sympathy with the proposal to establish a College. His association and the executive of the Irish Women's Guild had passed resolutions of approval. They knew from bitter experience in Ireland how much lack of education hindered co-operative and general development.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (Central Education Committee) said he was not wedded so much to the resolutions that would be proposed as to what lay behind them. They could easily make too much of the money question. The fight in the future for co-operators in the commercial world would grow keener, and they needed a training centre to strengthen their forces; but they were not giving their time as co-operators merely to build up trading organisations. There was something deeper in their hearts, and the College would help them to realise it.

Mr. MANSBRIDGE (Students' Fellowship) said he was heartily in sympathy with the statements of Mr. Rae and Miss Davies. They must look to the human side rather than the monetary side. The cost of the College would be just in proportion to the expansion which its success made necessary. Co-operative institutions could well meet the cost, and he paid tribute to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for what it had done in the past. The College would be for the general body of co-operators, not for a brilliant few. The College must be another force in the democratisation of modern education, and co-operators must not be satisfied until out of their own College they could send teachers into other colleges and the universities to use their influence there.

Mr. GALLACHER (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) said that he and his colleague had only a watching brief that day. They were inquirers, but were not lacking in sympathy with educational effort. They could not vote for the resolutions to be proposed, but when a scheme was drawn up they would see how far they were prepared to go; personally, he favoured the general proposition. He remembered the early days of Ruskin College, and the enthusiasm then displayed, and thought that subsequent events had not fulfilled anticipation based on that enthusiasm. He thought there was going to be competition, and that we should aim at education with other people rather than separating ourselves. The College would cost a lot of co-operative money, and might be used by people for individual advantage. Another objection was the suggested finance, and Manchester was a long way from Scotland.

Professor HALL (*College Herald Circle*) said that, coming from a working-class home and having had considerable experience in educational work, he realised how very much the development of the co-operative movement and other working-class movements was hindered by lack of opportunities for getting higher education. Before attending the university he had been manager of a manufacturing business, and he now realised how much more efficiently he could have managed the business if the university training had preceded his business career. That training would have also increased his power to forward social reform movements. These facts, and the knowledge that co-operator-forming education could not be obtained in existing higher educational institutions, made him a warm supporter of the proposals. One speaker had doubted the possibility of getting students, but the fact that half the accommodation at the Summer School was already spoken for indicated the demand, and the number of committees giving scholarships indicated a willingness to support the work. Every week saw increased support for the proposals.

Mr. KIDD (Managers' Association) supported the proposals, but hoped the instruction would not be "schoolmasterish."

Mr. VARLEY (Secretaries' Association) said that what was sought by them was knowledge, power, and inspiration. Education was required by members and officials, including employes. Whilst the success of the movement was based upon its trade, they needed to retain the ideals of the past.

It was clear that the movement would have to have the most highly-trained persons for its safety; and in a college he saw an institution by which co-operators could secure the best trained intellect from their membership.

Mr. FAIRBROTHER (Central Education Committee) thought a mistake had been made in discussing cost at this stage. Men must be trained to take up their positions in the movement, and education must be provided that would bring together the whole forces of the movement.

Mr. GILBERT (Central Education Committee) said all these things had a cash basis, and the College was no exception. Those with experience of the difficulties and struggles of small societies would see the advantage of a College, where men could be trained for service in the movement. It was heart-breaking to see the number of failures—and he spoke from bitter experience in the South-Western Section—through mismanagement and the lack of trained men. For future success they would have to give special attention to education and the training of officials.

Mr. HALSTEAD (Co-operative Productive Federation) said the movement had not in the past given sufficient attention to technical education, and if they could show societies the advantage of a College for this work, he thought they could launch a scheme successfully.

Mr. L. GORDON-SMITH (Irish Agricultural Organisation Society) said that his society was heartily in sympathy with the College proposals, and looked forward to students from the agricultural movement learning something of the industrial movement, and students from the industrial movement coming to them to learn something of the agricultural movement.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section and Central Education Committee) thought that the Co-operative College was in advance of anything of the same sort in the past. Whilst they in Scotland, on account of their superior educational system, did not feel the need of such an institution as much as co-operators in England did, he did not doubt that the proposals would receive sympathetic consideration.

Mr. RAE then replied, and proposed the following resolutions, which were passed *nem. con.* :—

That this meeting of delegates appointed by representative co-operative organisations heartily approves the proposal to establish a Co-operative College on the general lines suggested in the Co-operative Union paper, "A Co-operative College" (but with such modifications as may be thought desirable), and requests the authorisation of the organisations here represented to continue to act as a provisional committee, with power to co-opt representatives of other co-operative organisations as may be deemed desirable, for the purpose of undertaking preliminary work.

This provisional committee asks the United Board of the Co-operative Union

- (a) To arrange for propaganda work on behalf of the Co-operative College proposals in conjunction with other organisations.
- (b) To prepare for the realisation of the full scheme by developing educational work at Holyoake House and the Summer Schools, so that experience may be gained and a nucleus of students secured.

VI.—AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION AND ITS RELATION TO DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

(See Report 34, page 136.)

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, HELD IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED, MANCHESTER, ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 1915, AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT :—

Representing the Co-operative Union Limited : Messrs. D. McInnes and S. Fairbrother.

Representing the Agricultural Organisation Society : Mr. W. Fitzherbert Brockholes, D.L.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited : Messrs. W. E. Dudley, J. E. Johns, and G. Thorpe.

Representing the Farmers' Central Trading Board Limited : Mr. R. G. Hanks.

ABSENT :—

Lord Shaftesbury, K.C.V.O. (Agricultural Organisation Society); Messrs. Clement C. Smith and B. John (Farmers' Central Trading Board).

The secretaries of the organisations represented were also present, viz. : Messrs. J. Nugent Harris (Agricultural Organisation Society), W. H. T. Hearle (Farmers' Central Trading Board), and A. Whitehead (Co-operative Union); also Messrs. J. Mastin (Grocery Buyer, Co-operative Wholesale Society), E. Jackson (Agricultural Department, Co-operative Wholesale Society), and S. B. Meyer (secretary, North-Western Branch, Agricultural Organisation Society).

Mr. D. McInnes in the chair.

1.—MINUTES.

The report of the meeting of the Joint Conference, held 18th March, 1914, was taken as read and accepted as correct.

2.—REPORT OF CONFERENCE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY, THE AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY, AND THE EAST ANGLIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

Mr. THORPE reported that he and Mr. Dudley had attended the conference held at Westminster, that a variety of subjects had been discussed,

and that ultimately it had been decided that the East Anglian Farmers' Association should send samples to Mr. Openshaw, of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, with a view to his buying what he possibly could from them.

Mr. HARRIS stated that in the report which he had seen a statement was made by Mr. Thorpe that he saw no reason why inter-trading should not take place, and he was under the impression that the East Anglian farmers were waiting for a move from the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr. MC.INNES asked whether samples had been sent by the East Anglian farmers to the Co-operative Wholesale Society?

Mr. JOHNS replied that so far as he knew they had not.

Mr. HARRIS asked whether the question of sending samples was mentioned in the report?

Mr. THORPE said that it was understood at the meeting that samples should be sent.

Mr. HARRIS then pointed out that the meeting was called to consider the question of commission. Upon investigation it was found that the East Anglian farmers were not expecting any commission whatever. Subsequently the question of inter-trading cropped up, and, according to the report which he had, it was left to the Co-operative Wholesale Society to take the next step. Evidently there was some misunderstanding.

Mr. DUDLEY replied that whether it was recorded in the minutes or not it was clearly understood that the East Anglian farmers would approach the Co-operative Wholesale Society with what they had to dispose of. This really arose from Mr. Thorpe's remark that he saw no difficulty in inter-trading if the prices were right for our London people.

Mr. MC.INNES asked Mr. Dudley what was his impression in regard to the question of commission, to which

Mr. DUDLEY replied that without looking up the minutes he could not confirm Mr. Harris's statement that no commission was required.

Mr. HARRIS stated that in the report of the proceedings of the meeting the following occurred :—"Mr. Thorpe said that the point at issue was quite clear to him now that the question of commission had been cleared up . . . that so far as the Co-operative Wholesale Society were concerned they did not care to take produce from individual farmers . . . and suggested that the East Anglian farmers should give the Co-operative Wholesale Society a list of their prices." From this, he took it that the question of commission had been satisfactorily cleared up.

Mr. THORPE observed that it related to some transaction which had occurred between the East Anglian farmers and the Stratford Society.

Mr. HARRIS stated that the chairman of the East Anglian Farmers' Society said there would be no charge of any kind, either direct or indirect. All they asked was that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should buy what they could from them at market price. There had been an impression abroad that the East Anglian farmers charged a 10 per cent commission.

Mr. MC.INNES asked whether it might be taken for granted that the

samples referred to had not reached the Co-operative Wholesale Society, or that the representatives had no cognisance of the same.

Mr. JOHNS stated that visits had been paid to Mr. Openshaw by representatives of the East Anglian Farmers' Society, but that no business had resulted so far as he knew.

Mr. MC.INNES then asked the conference if the report should be received. (Agreed.)

3.—REPORT OF CONFERENCE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY, THE AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY, AND THE FARMERS' CENTRAL TRADING BOARD RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLYING BY THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY OF FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c.

Mr. HEARLE reported that endeavours had been made to fix a suitable date for a meeting, but they had not been successful in doing so. Now that the Co-operative Wholesale Society had formed a department for the supply of implements they thought it best to wait until after the meeting of this conference before doing anything further.

Mr. JOHNS added that the meeting was by mutual consent left over indefinitely.

Mr. MC.INNES then suggested that the report of Messrs. Hearle and Johns should be accepted. (Agreed.)

4.—THE CREATION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AND ITS EFFECT ON THIS CONFERENCE, THE FARMERS' CENTRAL TRADING BOARD, AND THE AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT GENERALLY.

Mr. MC.INNES stated that the question of opening an agricultural department by the Co-operative Wholesale Society was not a new one, or one of recent adoption. The idea had been in the minds of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's directors and heads of departments for some thirteen years.

Mr. BROCKHOLES expressed regret at Lord Shaftesbury's absence owing to military duties, and went on to say that the establishment of an agricultural department by the Co-operative Wholesale Society was a very serious matter, not merely in respect of trading difficulties, but the fundamental principles of co-operation which were involved. He took it that this conference was chiefly concerned with general principles and that actual trading details were really more of a matter for the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Farmers' Central Trading Board to deal with. The agricultural section of the conference had met the previous evening and the following statement had been prepared for submission to this conference :—

The policy that was in existence between the industrial and agricultural co-operative movements up to the formation of the new Co-operative Wholesale Society Agricultural Department may be summarised as follows :—

- (a) That the Agricultural Organisation Society plan of organisation—the formation of local and separate co-operative societies of farmers be encouraged and assisted in every way by the industrial co-operative movement. —
- (b) That all such societies be federated into one federal body for trading purposes.
- (c) That all trading transactions, whether for buying or selling, should take place through the trading federations of the respective bodies.
- (d) That every effort be made to put an end to competition between the two movements.

All efforts to induce the Co-operative Wholesale Society to form an agricultural department had failed, it was, therefore, imperative, in view of the foregoing approved policy, for the agricultural co-operative movement to bring into existence its own wholesale.

The first step towards this end was the formation of the Farmers' Central Trading Board, which was for the first part of its existence an unregistered body, but, subsequently, became registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. The formation of the Board had the unanimous approval of the Agricultural Organisation Society, and it was naturally thought it would also have the hearty approval of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. This, however, we understand is not the case, as the action of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in creating its new agricultural department goes to prove.

That the Co-operative Wholesale Society had a perfect right to form this new department goes without saying, but to do so without first informing the Joint Conference, to say nothing of the Farmers' Central Trading Board itself, of its intention appears to the agricultural section of the conference as an act that requires an explanation. The Joint Conference, in view of previous decisions, should, in our opinion, most certainly have been consulted.

We, the agricultural section, feel that if policies definitely agreed upon between parties are to be ignored in this way it may be very difficult to continue friendly relations. The action of the Farmers' Central Trading Board in issuing its circular to the agricultural co-operative societies asking them to hold their hand, both in regard to their general attitude towards the Co-operative Wholesale Society and, in particular, towards the Co-operative Wholesale Society's new agricultural department, may have annoyed the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The continuance of this new department without coming to a definite understanding with the Farmers' Central Trading Board is

certain to prove seriously detrimental to the best interests of the two movements.

To permit, therefore, of the representatives of the agricultural co-operative movement present at this conference getting at the root of things we would, in the most friendly spirit possible, ask for replies to the following questions :—

- (1) Is it the intention of this new Co-operative Wholesale Society's department to ignore the existence of the Farmers' Central Trading Board; and, if so, has the Co-operative Wholesale Society realised that such an action would be a direct reversal of the policy of which they had approved—"That all trading transactions, whether for buying or selling, should take place through the trading federations of the respective bodies, and that every effort should be made to put an end to competition between the two movements"?
- (2) According to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's circular letter of the 2nd December, 1914, it is clearly indicated that only a small portion of England (five counties) is to be covered by the new department "for the present." We would like, therefore, to know if the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors by "for the present" mean—that when the counties indicated in the letter are completely controlled by the Co-operative Wholesale Society it will then proceed to cover new ground, and thus extend the area of competition with the Farmers' Central Trading Board?
- (3) Is it the intention of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's new department, under paragraph 2 of the circular letter of 2nd December, to purchase all the agricultural produce that the members of our agricultural co-operative societies have for disposal, or only what the department actually requires to meet its needs?

Mr. THORPE pointed out that the Agricultural Organisation Society knew of the intention of the Co-operative Wholesale Society to establish an agricultural department, and had urged them to do so. A great many difficulties had, of course, arisen and delayed the establishment of the department. They had not hurried the matter, and had taken ample time to discuss the issues involved from time to time. There is no documentary evidence, nor has any statement been made, that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should consult the Agricultural Organisation Society or the Farmers' Central Trading Board before establishing this department. The department had now been formed and they were going on with it, and if in its operations it came into conflict with the other side it would be a question as to which body could do the best for the farmers. They still wanted the agricultural societies to focus their trade to some central point, so that the Co-operative Wholesale Society could buy from them. Somehow the two sides had not yet been able to make satisfactory arrangements, whether it was that the

Co-operative Wholesale Society buyers had been partly to blame or that the agricultural societies had not submitted samples he could not say. The Co-operative Wholesale Society had tried to put an end to competition in the past by getting the agricultural societies into such a position that they would be able to focus their supplies. That had not been done, and after due consideration they thought the time had arrived to establish their own department for the purpose, having regard to the large amount of trade they were doing with the agricultural societies, especially in North Wales. He drew attention to a minute of the Grocery Committee of the Co-operative Wholesale Society from which it was inferred that a tacit agreement had been come to between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Agricultural Co-operative Federation, that each organisation should work in its own way to get the trade of the farmers, and that if either could help the other it should be done.

Mr. BROCKHOLES called attention to the fact that the Agricultural Co-operative Federation and the Farmers' Central Trading Board were two different bodies.

Mr. DUDLEY then asked why the Co-operative Wholesale Society was not consulted in regard to the establishment of the Farmers' Central Trading Board. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, to his mind, had good grounds for commencing their department in the request which was made at the last meeting for the Co-operative Wholesale Society to undertake the supplying of agricultural implements. It was not a question of creating an annoyance to anyone, it was a question of meeting a demand.

Mr. JOHNS stated that when the Co-operative Wholesale Society decided to establish their agricultural department they were unaware that the Farmers' Central Trading Board had been registered as a society; they had never had any official cognisance of it.

Mr. HARRIS pointed out that when the original conference was split up into sections the Farmers' Central Trading Board was one of the bodies constituting the section for England and Wales. The existence of the Trading Board was evidently recognised at that time. There had been repeated requests to the agricultural co-operative movement to form a trading federation or wholesale. The reports of the various conferences demonstrated that fact up to the hilt. The formation of the Farmers' Central Trading Board was the outcome of these requests. Afterwards it was decided to register that body, but he could not understand how the Co-operative Wholesale Society could expect notification to be sent to it that registration was contemplated when they were only carrying out what had been understood all along would be done.

Mr. JOHNS asked whether the Farmers' Central Trading Board was not first established as an advisory body, and, if so, when was it registered as a trading body?

Mr. HARRIS replied that the Trading Board was organised for trading purposes in its unregistered capacity.

Mr. JOHNS understood it was formed for the purpose of grouping trade for supplying the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr. HARRIS stated this was not the case; it had always been a trading body.

Mr. DUDLEY asked if he understood Mr. Harris aright when he said they were only adopting the wishes of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in creating the Farmers' Central Trading Board.

Mr. Mc.INNES emphasised this point, and asked if that was the construction they were to put upon Mr. Harris' remarks, *i.e.*, that the agricultural movement had constantly been urged by this conference to establish an organisation resembling the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, to which Mr. Harris replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Mc.INNES then called attention to a remark made by Mr. Thorpe at the meeting held in March, 1910, as follows:—"As soon as we have anything like an assured trade a department to deal with that trade will be formed, and as soon as there is sufficient trade for a department to be formed you may depend upon it it will be formed." This seemed to be a very definite statement, and he, personally, could not remember that there had been any persuasion on the part of this conference that the agricultural movement should establish a wholesale department of this character.

Mr. HARRIS referred to the resolutions which had been passed by the Sub-committee on 16th December, 1909, *i.e.*, (1) "That every encouragement and assistance be given by all the organisations represented to the organisation of farmers throughout the United Kingdom into co-operative societies." (2) "That the societies so organised be federated for trading purposes in such a way as to ultimately centre the entire co-operative trade in one federal body for each country." He stated that to his mind these resolutions were undoubtedly a mandate to the agricultural societies to form a federal body. The members of the agricultural section of this conference said the Co-operative Wholesale Society had a perfect right to form their new department. Where they felt hurt was that this department was formed without taking into consideration the body which had asked the agricultural societies to form one central trading body for the whole movement. When there was a definite resolution before the conference asking the Co-operative Wholesale Society to form an agricultural department and Mr. Thorpe stated they could not accede to that request, the Co-operative Wholesale Society surely did not think the agricultural section would remain idle when their movement was demanding that something should be done to assist the agricultural societies in respect of joint buying. They were therefore compelled to go ahead and do the best they could for their societies, and now when the Farmers' Central Trading Board was just beginning to find its feet this new department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society is brought into existence.

Mr. Mc.INNES did not think that anyone could or did object to the Farmers' Central Trading Board.

Mr. THORPE thought the policy of the Co-operative Wholesale Society had been clear and consistent throughout. He had pointed out repeatedly that what they wanted was some central organisation from which the produce of

agricultural societies could be bought. He did not see why there should not be inter-trading between the Co-operative Wholesale Society's agricultural department and the Farmers' Central Trading Board. The Co-operative Wholesale Society required large amounts of agricultural produce. He wanted the agricultural societies to get the produce together in bulk and give the Co-operative Wholesale Society a chance to buy it. On the other hand, the agricultural societies might with advantage purchase their requirements as regards agricultural implements from the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He could not see any likelihood of confliction between the two interests, he rather thought they would be helpful to one another.

Mr. BROCKHOLES stated that the agricultural movement did not take exception to the formation of the agricultural department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. They admitted the Co-operative Wholesale Society were acting perfectly within their rights in forming such a department. What they did object to was that such a department should have been formed without first bringing the matter before this conference. They further wanted to know whether it was the intention of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's agricultural department to ignore the Farmers' Central Trading Board.

Mr. THORPE replied that if the Farmers' Central Trading Board submitted samples and the Co-operative Wholesale Society were able to buy from them they would do so.

Mr. HARRIS pointed out that the Farmers' Central Trading Board was established to assist the agricultural societies in respect to the purchase of their requirements of feeding stuffs, &c. The question of selling the produce of such societies had not yet been brought forward.

Mr. McINNES observed that the Farmers' Central Trading Board would go to where they could get the best terms when purchasing their requirements.

Mr. THORPE expressed the view that the Farmers' Central Trading Board would not give the Co-operative Wholesale Society their trade unless they could be supplied as cheaply as anywhere else.

Mr. WHITEHEAD explained, on the request of the Chairman, that one or two conferences had been held under the auspices of the Co-operative Union between representatives of distributive and agricultural societies. One conference had been held at Derby in relation to supplies of milk, and, from what he had heard, good had resulted. Other conferences had been held, with a view to promoting inter-trading, in the Northern and South-Western Sections, and the Union had left no stone unturned to bring about the desired end.

Mr. JOHNS observed that the conferences just referred to related more to agricultural societies and distributive societies, and not to the bodies represented at this conference.

Mr. HARRIS said he voiced the sentiments of the Agricultural Organisation Society when he stated that they fully recognised the splendid spirit shown by the industrial movement towards the Agricultural Organisation Society.

Mr. HEARLE asked whether the Co-operative Wholesale Society would adhere to their policy, that all buying and selling should be done through the

trading federations. If so, the difficulties which appeared to be in the way might disappear. It appeared to him at present that there was bound to be competition with the new department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, as that department was quoting to agricultural societies direct. If the Co-operative Wholesale Society adhered to the policy laid down by previous conferences a working arrangement might be come to.

Mr. MCINNIS then called upon Mr. Jackson, head of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's agricultural department.

Mr. JACKSON stated he was rather at a disadvantage, as this was the first meeting he had attended. There appeared to him to be some confusion of thought in regard to the way in which the agricultural and industrial movements were to be of service one to the other. He could quite imagine it was in the minds of the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors that the Farmers' Central Trading Board was in the nature of a produce selling organisation, and, further, the Co-operative Wholesale Society was regarded as the federal body for the whole co-operative movement through which the trade of the whole movement should go. The Co-operative Wholesale Society could do quite as well for the agricultural societies as any other body, and there was no need for the existence of another body in that aspect. There may be a need for another body for collecting produce at various centres, as has been suggested, for the Co-operative Wholesale Society to deal with, but it may be that arrangements can be come to even in that respect whereby the Co-operative Wholesale Society could by means of organisation concentrate the produce in certain districts so as to dispose of it to the advantage of agricultural societies.

Mr. MASTIN remarked as to the effect of time on decisions. The conversation this morning would have been impossible four years ago. No one would have been more pleased than Mr. Harris and himself had the Co-operative Wholesale Society established an agricultural department four years ago. Both of them were keen advocates of that course. He was satisfied that the agricultural department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society could do better work for the agricultural societies than any other federation. They had organised consumption and could organise supplies. He thought that in the course of two or three years several important developments would take place, especially in the organisation of milk supplies.

Mr. BROCKHOLES suggested that the Farmers' Central Trading Board might have a meeting with representatives of the agricultural department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Both were out for the same object, i.e., to do the best they could for the farmers, although they may differ somewhat in their ideas.

Mr. JOHNS said it was not the intention of the Co-operative Wholesale Society to ignore the Farmers' Central Trading Board, but, in his opinion, the Trading Board could not possibly supply them with all their requirements, therefore it was impossible for the Co-operative Wholesale Society to confine their trading operations to that Trading Board.

Mr. MC.INNES pointed out the impossibility of competition between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Farmers' Central Trading Board at the present time, seeing that the Trading Board was selling to its members and not organising their produce. One of the main features of the agricultural department was the disposing of the produce of agricultural societies.

Mr. HARRIS asked how the new department would affect a body like the East Anglian Farmers' Association, which had been in existence for some years, and which existed solely for the purpose of finding an outlet for the produce of its various affiliated societies. The existence of such societies as the East Anglian Farmers should be considered.

Mr. MC.INNES asked if the East Anglian Farmers' Association was affiliated with the Eastern Counties Farmers' Co-operative Association.

Mr. HARRIS did not think so.

Mr. JACKSON thought that so long as the Farmers' Associations organised with the idea of going past the Co-operative Wholesale Society there were bound to be conflicting ideas cropping up now and again. Mr. Harris had stated that the East Anglian Farmers' Association were selling to Stratford Society. They had better recognise quite frankly that by doing so they were acting in competition with the Green Fruit Department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in London. If the agricultural movement could organise on such lines that there could be a definite link between agricultural societies and the distributive societies a great many of the difficulties could be got over.

Mr. HARRIS pointed out that the conference which had taken place between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the East Anglian Farmers, as the result of the resolution passed at the last meeting, was called for this purpose, *i.e.*, to make arrangements for the East Anglian Farmers' Association to supply distributive societies through the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr. THORPE did not want to throw any difficulty in the way of a proper understanding being arrived at. Mr. Brockholes had thrown out a suggestion, and he was prepared to put this suggestion in the form of a resolution, *viz.* :—

That a conference be arranged between representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, in its agricultural department, and the Farmers' Central Trading Board at as early a date as possible, and that a report of such conference be submitted to the next meeting of this conference.

He thought that some of the difficulties which had arisen might then be cleared up.

This resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. It was further resolved that the proposed conference should be held on the premises of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Leman Street, London, on Wednesday, 24th February, 1915, at 12 noon.

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, HELD AT LEMAN STREET, LONDON, E., ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1915, AT 2-30 P.M.

PRESENT :—

Representing the Co-operative Union Limited : Messrs. D. McInnes and S. Fairbrother.

Representing the Agricultural Organisation Society : Messrs. W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, D.L., and J. S. Corbett (in place of Lord Shaftesbury).

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society : Messrs. W. E. Dudley, J. E. Johns, and G. Thorpe.

Representing the Farmers' Central Trading Board Limited : Messrs. R. G. Hanks, B. John, and Clement C. Smith.

There were also present Messrs. J. Nugent Harris (Secretary, Agricultural Organisation Society), W. H. T. Hearle (Secretary, Farmers' Central Trading Board), H. C. Gray (Co-operative Union), J. Mastin (Grocery Buyer, Co-operative Wholesale Society), and E. Jackson (Agricultural Department, Co-operative Wholesale Society).

Mr. D. McInnes in the chair.

Before commencing the business, the Chairman referred in feeling terms to the loss which Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes had sustained in the death of his son (Capt. T. J. Fitzherbert-Brockholes), who had been killed in action in France; and on behalf of the Committee expressed their deepest sympathy with Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes in his bereavement.

1.—MINUTES.

The report of the meeting held 3rd February, 1915, was taken as read, and accepted as a correct record.

2.—REPORT OF CONFERENCE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AND THE FARMERS' CENTRAL TRADING BOARD, HELD 24TH FEBRUARY, 1915.

It was reported that a meeting had been held between the representatives appointed at the last meeting of this committee, and that a long discussion had taken place as to the best means of eliminating competition between the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Farmers' Central Trading Board. Mr. Thorpe was of the opinion that unless the Co-operative Wholesale Society absorbed the Farmers' Central Trading Board competition was bound to arise. The representatives of the Farmers' Central Board did not think that course would be acceptable to their constituents, and asked if the Co-operative Wholesale Society would be prepared to grant them preferential terms for the supply of their requirements. Mr. Johns did not think this could be done, as the Co-operative Wholesale Society had to treat all its members alike. The meeting ended with the understanding that the representatives should report to their respective bodies, the Farmers' Central Trading Board under-

taking to favour the support of C.W.S. manufactures on preferential terms, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society's representatives agreeing to go into the question of preferential terms, each body to report to this conference.

Mr. MC.INNES then put the report to the meeting, and on the motion of Mr. DUDLEY, seconded by Mr. JOHNS, it was adopted.

3.—CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE ACTION.

Mr. THORPE stated that the Co-operative Wholesale Society's directors had discussed the question of preferential terms at considerable length, and arrived at the following conclusion, viz. :—

That we report to the next Joint Conference on Agriculture and Distribution that, in our opinion, we see no necessity for the existence of the Farmers' Central Trading Board, and, consequently, we cannot see our way to grant them preferential terms.

Mr. BROCKHOLES asked whether they were to take this resolution as an answer to question No. 1, which was put by the Agricultural representatives at the conference of 3rd February, 1915, i.e., whether it was the intention of the Co-operative Wholesale Society to ignore the Farmers' Central Trading Board. It seemed to him that this was not merely ignoring the Farmers' Central Trading Board, but even going a step further.

Mr. MC.INNES took it to mean that the Co-operative Wholesale Society could not see its way to give the Farmers' Central Board preferential terms.

Mr. JOHNS thought the resolution had some bearing upon a remark which appeared in the report of the meeting held on 24th February, 1915, i.e., that all difficulties might be cleared away by the absorption of the Farmers' Trading Board by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, or *vice versa*.

Mr. SMITH said that the position seemed to be either that the Farmers' Central Trading Board should be absorbed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society or that the two bodies should go on independently. If the Farmers' Central Trading Board decided to work independently they would endeavour to do so. Assuming the Farmers' Central Trading Board was willing to consider absorption, what were the methods suggested by the Co-operative Wholesale whereby this might be arranged? He did not say for one moment that the question would be entertained, but having reached this point, he thought they might consider these conditions.

Mr. THORPE could not say what lines would be taken. It was a matter which would require much consideration. If the Farmers' Central Trading Board came to the conclusion that absorption was the best thing they could have a conference to talk matters over.

Mr. HARRIS thought this was a matter which would have to be referred to their constituents. The whole matter would have to be discussed from the agricultural side by the Agricultural Organisation Society as well as by the Joint Boards for England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Mr. BROCKHOLES referred to the fact that the Co-operative Wholesale Society's scheme covered five counties only. They had a total of 600

agricultural societies in North and South Wales, and other counties affiliated to the Agricultural Organisation Society, and only 166 of these societies were in the area covered by the Co-operative Wholesale Society's scheme, leaving 434 societies outside.

Mr. JACKSON asked how many of those 600 societies were trading bodies.

Mr. HARRIS pointed out that every society which had been brought into existence by the Agricultural Organisation Society with the exception of credit banks, which numbered about 40, took full power in their objects rule to carry on trading operations in some shape or form. Some of them were a year or two before commencing trading, but they were all in effect, trading organisations.

Mr. DUDLEY asked if, seeing there were 600 societies affiliated, they could have information as to the amount of trade done by the Farmers' Central Board.

Mr. HARRIS thought that before the Farmers' Trading Board made a move in the matter either way, they were entitled to know what advantages would be gained by absorption.

Mr. THORPE stated he was not in a position to give any information on this point, but he could say the Farmers' Central Trading Board would be treated on the best possible terms, and that the Co-operative Wholesale Society would get very little profit out of the transaction.

Mr. HARRIS, in answer to Mr. Jackson, stated that there were 166 societies in the area proposed to be covered by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and 434 outside. The turnover of the 166 societies would not, he thought, exceed £500,000 per annum. The turnover of the 600 societies would be about £2,500,000 per annum.

Mr. JACKSON asked whether this trade was done with the Farmers' Central Trading Board absolutely, to which, Mr. Harris replied "No."

Mr. THORPE wanted to know how much of this trade went through the Farmers' Central Trading Board.

Mr. JOHNS said they must have some basis to work upon in order to carry on negotiations in the future in the event of the Farmers' Central Trading Board agreeing to absorption. If they were to go into the matter with clear understanding they must have a frank statement from the other side.

Mr. HARRIS pointed out that the Co-operative Wholesale Society representatives did not realise the position in which the Agricultural Organisation Society was placed. They had 434 societies outside the area proposed to be catered for by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which must be looked after from a trading point of view. The Agricultural Organisation Society would have to see to it that these societies were not neglected from the trading point of view, even if the Farmers' Central Trading Board were to disband at once. In his opinion, the Co-operative Wholesale Society's new department only skimmed the surface of the position so far as the Agricultural Organisation Society was concerned.

Mr. DUDLEY thought the position had become somewhat obscure. He wished to know what prevented the Farmers' Central Trading Board giving a

statement as to the amount of trade done by them. He also asked for a little further enlightenment as to the phrase used by Mr. Harris, "that the C.W.S. were only skimming the surface"; also whether it was the intention of the Agricultural Organisation Society to form some other body to deal with the trade of those agricultural societies which did not come within the proposed area.

Mr. McINNES took it for granted that the impression which Mr. Harris intended to convey was that avenues would have to be found through which the trade of these 434 societies could be passed.

Mr. JOHNS said he was anxious to know how many of these societies actually existed for trading purposes. At the meeting on 24th February, trading terms were discussed and the representatives of the Farmers' Central Trading Board were told that the Co-operative Wholesale Society were going into certain other businesses. They had come to the conclusion that the Farmers' Central Trading Board could not do this business without charging additional profit on the sale of the goods. The C.W.S. directors believed that the Co-operative Wholesale Society, as manufacturers, were in the best position to meet the requirements of the farmers' societies.

Mr. MASTIN said that if he understood Mr. Harris aright he was concerned as to the position of those societies not within the area if the Farmers' Central Trading Board and the Co-operative Wholesale Society came to an agreement. To his mind, the question was perfectly simple. It merely meant the extension of the scheme to embrace the whole of England and Wales. This was already in the minds of the C.W.S. directors, but they thought it better to concentrate in a given area, make it a success, and then extend. If that would meet Mr. Harris' objections, he did not think the C.W.S. directors would hesitate for one moment in making the extension immediately.

Mr. HARRIS stated that he used the term "skimmed the surface" simply by reason of the fact that the area selected by the Co-operative Wholesale Society only touched the fringe of the agricultural movement. There would have been an entirely different situation at this meeting had the circular issued by the Co-operative Wholesale Society provided for the inclusion of the whole of England and Wales. The counties selected were counties in which there was very little agricultural trade as compared with the whole of England and Wales. The Agricultural Organisation Society would be compelled to look after the interests of agricultural societies until the whole country was covered by an organisation approved by the agricultural movement.

Mr. MASTIN. Then the fact of the Co-operative Wholesale extending its operations so as to cover the whole of England and Wales would meet your point?

Mr. HARRIS. Provided our constituents approved.

Mr. SMITH explained that he was rather at a disadvantage, as he had not been able to attend the previous conferences. He could quite understand that Mr. Hanks was rather chary about giving information as to the trade of the Farmers' Central Trading Board just at the present time, seeing that it was not yet established whether the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the

Farmers' Central Trading Board were in the position of rivals, or whether it was their intention to work together. What they ought to do was to find out what arrangement was best for the Co-operative movement generally. In some respects the agricultural movement and the distributive movement had interests in common. In other respects they were diametrically opposed. The agricultural movement had foodstuffs to sell and wanted to obtain the highest price; on the other hand, the Co-operative Wholesale Society were out to obtain the requirements of their industrial societies at the lowest possible figure. That is where they were in conflict, and if it were not for this fact he should say at once, let the agricultural societies join the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Things being as they are, it did not seem to him to be in the interests of the agricultural movement to put itself altogether in the hands of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr. JOHNS thought Mr. Smith was assuming that the C.W.S. intended to penalise the agricultural societies as regards prices. This was not the case; the C.W.S. was always prepared to buy at market prices.

Mr. JACKSON thought there was more likelihood of the two bodies coming into conflict from the point of view of distribution.

Mr. MASTIN pointed out that at a previous meeting Mr. Harris had made a statement to the effect that the question of selling the produce of agricultural societies had not yet been considered by the Farmers' Central Trading Board. They were not, therefore, discussing the sale of produce, but were dealing with the Farmers' Central Trading Board as a distributing agency.

Mr. THORPE went on to say that the Agricultural Organisation Society was purely a propagandist body. Its object was to point out the advantages of co-operation to the farmer and to safeguard his interests. It would, so far as he could see, have to continue that policy until the country was covered with agricultural societies. It would be a long time before that could be accomplished. To return to the question before them. The C.W.S. had asked what trade the Farmers' Central Board was doing, and he did not see why they could not have that information at this meeting. They were meeting in a friendly way, and trying to help each other. He also wished to know if the Agricultural Organisation Society had any control over the Farmers' Central Trading Board.

Mr. MC.INNES pointed out that the Agricultural Organisation Society stood in the same position to the Farmers' Central Trading Board as did the Co-operative Union to the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The Co-operative Union would naturally desire the distributive societies to do their business through the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Agricultural Organisation Society held the same views as regards the agricultural societies and the Farmers' Central Trading Board. The distributive societies did not always take the advice of the Co-operative Union, and he did not think Mr. Harris would undertake to say the agricultural societies would invariably act upon the advice given them by the Agricultural Organisation Society.

Mr. HARRIS ventured to say that if the Farmers' Central Trading Board were to divulge the figures of their first attempt at trading they would

compare very favourably with the first year's trading of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr. MC-INNES said it had always been understood that the Farmers' Central Trading Board would act as collectors and organisers for the sale of produce. Mr. Harris had stated that the question of selling the produce of agricultural societies had not yet been brought forward.

Mr. SMITH remarked that it was a far more difficult proposition to collect and sell the produce than to supply the requirements of the farmers.

Mr. HANKS then stated that the amount of trade done by the Farmers' Central Trading Board during the three months ended December, 1914, was £5,000, and that since then they had done £20,000. He was glad Mr. Smith had raised the question of the Co-operative Wholesale Society taking the farmers' produce. He had always found, however, that the C.W.S. were too good buyers for him to do business with. He had offered them corn, but had never once been able to do any business. He had sold locally for a higher price than the C.W.S. could give him. Speaking of wheat, he said that unless the C.W.S. had plant installed for milling English wheat, and English wheat alone, they could not hope to be in a position to take all the farmers' produce. As to grinding barley, they all knew perfectly well that it was impossible to make barley meal wholly and solely with English barley unless they had a plant for dealing with that particular article. Much had been made of the fact that the Farmers' Central Trading Board had not organised itself to sell the farmers' produce. He found that individual farmers much preferred to sell in the old way, and no matter how well an institution might be organised it would be found that difficulties would crop up. No one was more keenly disappointed than he at the failure to come to an understanding. At the present, it seemed to him that war had been declared between the two great forces of co-operation. He did hope it would be possible for an understanding to be arrived at in order that any such disastrous conflict might be avoided.

Mr. FAIRBROTHER took objection to the remark of the last speaker that war had been declared. It had been a source of education to him to attend these conferences, and yet, at the same time, he felt a keen sense of disappointment that nothing tangible had been the result. In his opinion, the Co-operative Wholesale Society was capable of doing the business better than any other organisation.

Mr. THORPE stated that in this country they had a great industrial organisation, and, in future, the Co-operative Wholesale Society would become a large manufacturing concern, and would lay hold of the raw material as far as it possibly could. It did not intend to have any intermediaries between itself and the consumer. The C.W.S. had not declared war, quite the reverse. He felt that the interests of the Agricultural Organisation Society, the Farmers' Central Trading Board, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society were one, provided they could find a way which would lead to a settlement of this question. He did not think they had arrived at an *impasse*, and believed that if they looked at the question in all its phases they would find a solution.

Mr. MC.INNES deprecated any talk about war between the agricultural and distributive movements. He drew attention to the fact that two of the organisations represented at the conference were not trading bodies, and remarked that he was about to suggest that there might be another meeting of those bodies connected with trade, i.e., the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Farmers' Central Trading Board, and if all concerned would endeavour to be present at a convenient date it was just possible that the olive branch thrown out by Mr. Thorpe might be seized.

Mr. JOHNS did not take the resolution of the C.W.S. directors as a declaration of war. He wanted to find some solution of the difficulty, and in view of that he welcomed the proposal of the Chairman that another meeting should be called. In discussing the question, however, they could not ignore the resolution passed by the C.W.S. directors, and whatever negotiations took place must be, so far as the C.W.S. representatives were concerned, from that point of view.

Mr. CORBETT explained that this was the first conference he had attended. He was a member of an agricultural society which had one of the largest intertrading accounts with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and he wished to take the opportunity of expressing his satisfaction with the manner in which the C.W.S. had always met the societies with which he was connected. He very much regretted any misunderstanding which had arisen at the meeting. They wanted to avoid that if possible, and he thought it would have been wise had Mr. Harris' suggestion been adopted, and the resolution of the C.W.S. directors taken to the constituents for discussion. The society with which he was connected would, in the days to come, whether the Farmers' Central Trading Board remained in existence or not, continue its good relations with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, but he would naturally prefer that such dealings should be through the Farmers' Central Trading Board. He knew little at the present time of the rules or regulations of the latter body, but he did believe it was a move in the right direction. He agreed with Mr. Smith that the question of handing everything over to the Co-operative Wholesale Society bristled with difficulties, but difficulties occurred only to be overcome, and perhaps the time was not far distant when a solution would be arrived at.

Mr. BROCKHOLES expressed regret that anything should have passed at the meeting to create misunderstanding. The whole object of the meeting was to endeavour to promote concord. Whilst agreeing with the remarks of Mr. Fairbrother and Mr. Thorpe he asked the representatives of the distributive movement to put themselves in the position of the Farmers' Central Trading Board, the object of whose existence was to help their societies and who had done so much in that direction, and, consequently, would naturally feel considerably hurt when they came up against a resolution which, to put it plainly, implied "There is no need for you." He was quite in agreement with the chairman's suggestion that another meeting should be held.

Mr. JOHNS suggested that if the representatives of the agricultural movement had any proposals to make, the C.W.S. representatives might be

able to use persuasion with their colleagues, if such proposals were reasonable.

Mr. THORPE thought the best way of dealing with the matter was for the Farmers' Central Trading Board to discuss the C.W.S. resolution, and bring forward their views at another meeting.

Mr. FAIRBROTHER seconded Mr. Thorpe's remarks, as he was of opinion that the Farmers' Central Trading Board should have an opportunity of discussing the matter in all its bearings.

Mr. DUDLEY thought the agricultural representatives should have some definite proposal to bring forward at the next meeting, and that the discussion should not be confined to generalities.

Mr. HARRIS expressed the view that this was the first time they had got to grips on the question. They had now a definite resolution from the C.W.S. directors setting out their policy. Referring to past events, he said that two or three years ago they asked the C.W.S. by definite resolution to form an agricultural department. The Co-operative Wholesale Society directors considered the matter and reported their decision. That decision was a great contrast to the present one. They had now before them a clear issue, which must be considered by their constituents—their affiliated societies.

Mr. MC.INNES then read the resolution, viz. :—

That the resolution of the Co-operative Wholesale Society be reviewed by the Farmers' Central Trading Board, and another meeting of the representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Farmers' Central Trading Board be held, at which the latter body shall submit proposals.

Mr. SMITH suggested that if the Farmers' Central Board had no proposals to offer the meeting should not be held.

Mr. THORPE did not think this was the attitude they ought to assume. He took it that the resolution was to be referred to the Farmers' Central Trading Board for review. That body would put its deliberations into definite form, and they could then come to closer grips still.

Mr. JOHNS did not see the use of a meeting of trading bodies only. He thought the Farmers' Central Trading Board should report their decision to the conference itself.

Mr. MC.INNES thought it would be better to bring the matter first before the meeting of trading bodies, which meeting would afterwards report to the conference.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

It was also resolved that the trading bodies should meet at Leman Street, London, on Saturday, 10th April, 1915, at 10-30 a.m.

4.—DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF JOINT CONFERENCE.

Resolved—

That it be left in the hands of the Co-operative Union to convene the next meeting.

On the motion of Mr. FITZHERBERT-BROCKHOLES, a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

VII.—FOREIGN CONGRESSES.

(See Report 46, page 159.)

REPORT OF THE AUSTRIAN CONGRESS, HELD AT VIENNA, 28TH, 29TH, AND 30TH JUNE, 1914.

BY MR. T. HORROCKS.

As the representative of the British Co-operative Union I attended the Twelfth Congress of the Central Union of Austrian Distributive Societies, which was held in Vienna on 28th, 29th, and 30th June, 1914. In company with Mr. H. J. May (general secretary, International Co-operative Alliance) I left London on Wednesday, 24th June, and after passing through Ostend, Cologne, and Nurnburg we reached Vienna late on Friday evening and proceeded to the hotel in which accommodation had been booked for us by our Austrian friends.

The Congress proceedings opened on the morning of the 28th, when about 200 delegates were present from the various societies. Representatives were also present from the Central Union of German Distributive Societies, the German Wholesale Society, and the Swedish Co-operative Union.

Mr. Karl Renner, the President of the Austrian Union, in his address of welcome, pointed out the great difficulties with which the distributive societies had had to contend during 1913. In spite of the vast amount of unemployment and the very unsatisfactory state of the national economy, the distributive societies succeeded in maintaining their position without any outside help.

After the presidential address had been delivered, the representatives from other countries conveyed their messages of goodwill to the Austrian co-operators, each dealing with the progress of the movement in his own country, and expressing the hope that increased success would attend their efforts to extend the movement in Austria.

A very hearty welcome was given to all the foreign friends, and their addresses were listened to attentively and were much appreciated when the necessary translations had been made.

Following the speeches delivered by friends from abroad, the report of the work of the Central Union during 1913 was presented and dealt with. The following are some of the more interesting items, viz. :—

At the end of 1913, there were 525 societies affiliated to the Central Union, of which 465 were distributive societies, 32 productive societies, 25 building societies, and three credit societies. Four hundred and twenty-five societies sent in reports, according to which their total membership was 300,934, and their total sales amounted to 97,753,641 crowns. Thirty productive societies had 2,137 members, and did a trade of 5,816,554 crowns. Fifteen building societies had a total membership of 2,344. The membership and the turn-over has decreased in the case of societies situated in Vienna, in part of the Alpine country, and in the Polish districts; all the other societies show an

increase. Of special importance is the fact that the savings deposits of the members have increased by 2,750,000 crowns. This is a sign of special confidence in the societies, since the members have not deposited new savings, but have transferred to the distributive societies money hitherto deposited in savings and other banks.

The secretary's report was adopted without discussion, as were the report of the insurance department of the Central Union, which testified to a great development; the report on the International Congress at Glasgow, and that on the activity of the Wages Board during the first year of its existence.

The question of the establishment of a pension fund for the employes of the distributive societies, which was discussed at the last Congress, was again considered. The fact that the large Viennese distributive societies already have such institutions stands in the way of the establishment of the fund. It has not yet been decided whether these institutions should be amalgamated with the fund which is to meet the needs of all the societies. The solution of the problem is to be left to next year's Congress.

Dr. Renner presented an exhaustive paper on the economic functions of a co-operative society. He considered the duties of each separate type of co-operative society and its relation to the capitalistic system of economy and to the labour movement.

According to the report issued by the Statistical Central Commission with regard to the position of registered industrial and provident societies, the total number of registered co-operative societies in Austria on 1st January, 1914, was 19,091, of which 9,904 were founded on the principle of limited liability, and 9,187 on that of unlimited liability. The increase in the number of societies during the year under report was 253. The following is the position of the various types of co-operative society:—

	Number.	Increase or Decrease.
Distributive societies	1,451	... — 18
With limited liability	1,411	... — 15
With unlimited liability	40	... — 3
Building societies	616	... + 15
With limited liability	614	... + 15
With unlimited liability	2	... ..
Agricultural societies	3,511	... + 86
Industrial societies	1,216	... + 55
Loan societies	12,240	... +114
On the Raiffeisen system	8,406	... + 97
On the Schulze-Delitzsch system	3,834	... + 17
Other societies	57	... + 1
Co-operative unions	99	... + 3

It would be wrong to conclude, from the decrease in the number of co-operative distributive societies, that the distributive movement had received a set back. In the crisis caused by the Balkan War many small societies

outside the Central Union failed. In the Central Union itself certain societies have become amalgamated with others. During the past year, however, despite the regrettable position of affairs, the membership of the distributive societies affiliated to the Central Union increased by nearly 5,000.

In the intervals of the Congress meetings we had opportunities of inspecting some of the Viennese co-operative buildings and warehouses. In particular, I should like to mention the magnificent structure which has been erected by the Co-operators, Trade-unionists, and Socialists as a corn mill, bakery, and butchering department. It is a splendid example of what can be done by co-operation, and one which is worthy of emulation.

In concluding this report I should like to express my sincere appreciation of the kindness received from our friends Dr. Karpeles and his family. From the time of our arrival in Vienna to the day of our departure they treated us with splendid hospitality, and showed us the beauties of their city and the country around in such a manner that the memory of it will always remain.

REPORT OF THE BELGIAN CONGRESS, HELD AT SERAING, 26TH AND 27TH JULY, 1914.

BY MR. W. J. DOUSE.

As the representative of the Co-operative Union to the Belgian Co-operative Congress I was looking forward to making my acquaintance with our Belgian friends on their own soil. I reached Liege on Friday evening, about 8-15 o'clock, and next day Mr. H. J. May arrived, also Mr. L. P. Byrne (Dublin), who was representing the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, and Messrs. Hemingway and King, of the English Wholesale Society.

The Congress was at Seraing, some five miles from Liege. We were there in good time on Sunday morning, and were taken charge of, and, indeed, "care of," by Mr. Serwy, jun., son of Mr. Serwy, of the Belgian Co-operative Wholesale Society. We had a fine procession, headed by a band, and were entertained. We went to the Congress Hall, at the entrance to which was a stand with 40 gaily attired children, whose singing was an inspiration, especially to the writer, who knew not a word but loved the rhythm.

The Congress Hall was not large, seating 300. Tables ran down the length of the hall, upon which paper, pens, and pencils were placed for the use of delegates. Foreign delegates were on the platform.

The President delivered a most lively opening address, which was punctuated with cheers. We foreigners in turn delivered brief speeches, which were interpreted by Mr. Serwy. I read my British greetings, and was cheered, as was also its interpretation. Indeed, we Britishers were treated with extreme cordiality.

The annual report raised a long and quite lively discussion. There was

much criticism, alternate sides being taken with much vehemence, but with good temper. The President had his conflicting audience well in hand.

The two days' discussions covered several matters of moment and evident interest, even touching what we should call politics. Quite a number are labelled Socialists, but there is quite a difference in the definitions and aims of the British and Foreign Socialists. Anyway, they are in dead earnest as co-operators, and co-operation will, no doubt, help to shape the future destiny of Belgium.

Liege was simply lovely. The Meuse, with its boats and banks, was enchanting. The cathedral was magnificent, and the singing superb. No Sunday practically in Belgium, all business and enjoyment. Licenses for selling alcoholic drinks are easily obtainable, and the licensed houses close at will. The buildings have wide verandahs, and people sit outside and sip their beer, &c., and families were all sitting together chatting with evident enjoyment. I noticed that every piece of vacant ground had well-laid out flower gardens, which made the town very charming. There are fine streets, shops, and innumerable restaurants. Streets clean, people well dressed, and no evidence of poverty. I noticed all land was well cultivated, much intensive culture, and jolly good farmhouses, with fine breeds of cattle. Rumours of war spread, mobilisation ordered, and I thought it prudent to hasten home.

I shall never forget the visit. The unceasing kindness of the co-operative brethren won my gratitude. Their zeal, faith, and industry entitle the nation to a continuous development of the principles of co-operation and democracy.

REPORT OF THE DANISH CONGRESS, HELD AT COPENHAGEN, 28TH MAY, 1914.

By MR. DAVID EVANS.

On Monday, 25th May, I started on my journey to the Danish capital for the purpose of attending the Co-operative Congress as representative of the Co-operative Union. I note in reports of representatives of the Union to foreign Congresses that they had the company of one or more of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's directors, and I can readily understand how and why they appreciated those gentlemen's company, &c. But I was denied that invaluable aid and companionship, and stood alone at the Danish Congress as representative of the whole British co-operative world. When I remembered that I represented one-third of the population of the British Isles and over £130,000,000 of trade I realised that for once, anyway in my life, I was really an important personage. A greater honour no one could desire, and a more important mission could not be entrusted to a democrat, and I feel grateful to my colleagues on the Western Sectional Board in particular, and to the Union in general, for having thus honoured me.

My journey to Copenhagen was uneventful, except that I travelled from London to Hamburg with a German gentleman who was very communicative

and friendly. On arriving at Copenhagen I proceeded to the Hotel Bristol, where rooms had been booked for me by Mr. Frederick Nielsen (Co-operative Wholesale Society's manager), and who was my friend and guide during my short stay in the city.

The Congress took place in the "Koncert Palast," under the presidency of Mr. Claus Johansen. In addition to myself there were representatives from Germany and Sweden. Congress opened at 10-20 a.m., with the President's address, which was concluded at 11 a.m. Afterwards the foreign delegates addressed Congress, and I learned with pride that the prior place was given the British delegate. After delivering my address it was translated into Danish by Mr. Nielsen and read to the Congress, and was enthusiastically received. The German delegates followed, and after them the representative from Sweden. He spoke in his native language and the Danes understood it. The Danes are good linguists, being able to understand and follow speeches in Swedish and Norsk, and a goodly number are conversant with English and German, these two languages being taught in all their schools.

The report and balance sheet was discussed at some length, and showed progress all along the line. Their trade amounted to over £3,000,000, and, having regard to their population, their loyalty is greater, proportionately, than ours. The Danes are not demonstrative, they listen attentively, but they show their disapproval very emphatically. Having regard to the large number of delegates very few took part, and all the speeches were short and to the point—brevity and lucidity appeared to be the accepted rule, and it must be remembered that they have no time limit such as we have at our Congresses.

Other questions relating to Danish co-operation were discussed and quickly disposed of.

Over the question of next place of meeting of Congress there was a severe struggle, the invitations being ten in number, and eventually a majority was cast for Esbjerg. Their rules of order are very elastic, and the same person spoke more than once on the same subject. If discussion becomes tedious or lengthy the representatives leave their places and walk about and chat and smoke; nevertheless, they get through their business very expeditiously, and Congress was brought to a close at 1-30 p.m.

There were 1,300 societies represented, each society having one vote regardless of its trade or numerical strength.

In the evening the foreign delegates were entertained to a sumptuous banquet, where speeches were made by all the foreign delegates and a large number of Danish officers and delegates.

I left at midnight, and I am indebted to Mr. Nielsen, who saw to my needs and comfort from the time of my arrival until my departure. I arrived safely at Dublin on Saturday evening for our own Congress.

Copenhagen is a beautiful city, and the Danes are an industrious and intelligent and enterprising people. It may be truly said that they are a co-operative nation, and what they are to-day they attribute to co-operation.

These visits are undoubtedly of great educational benefit and make for the accomplishment of that grand ideal "International Co-operation," and must lead to a great universal Co-operative Commonwealth.

REPORT OF THE FINNISH CONGRESS, HELD AT TAMPERE, 30TH MAY TO 2ND JUNE, 1914.

By MR. M. H. CLEAR.

I accompanied Messrs. Woodhouse and Adams, the Co-operative Wholesale Society delegates, and as these gentlemen had been to three previous Finnish annual meetings the journeying to and from and through the various countries was made easy and instructive.

We left London on Monday, 25th May, travelled *viâ* Calais to Cöln, spent the night there, and got as far as Hamburg the second night; leaving at 6 a.m. *viâ* Kiel and Korsor for Malmo (Sweden), and travelling through the night to Stockholm, which place we left by boat, and away up the Gulf of Finland to Abo, the first port in Finland and formerly the capital. We were met here and taken over the local society and about the locality, and from here we entrained to Tampere, some 160 miles north inland.

Tampere is the Manchester of Finland, and is situated on a neck of land parting two huge lakes, the waters of one being used for driving power for the many mills. Besides linen goods there are large wood pulp paper mills and hosiery factories and other industries existing.

The Congress began in the People's Palace (and there are 900 of such scattered over Finland) on the 30th May at 3 p.m. There were 755 delegates and nine newspaper reporters present, and ten delegates from four foreign countries—Sweden, Germany, Denmark, and England. The proceedings at every meeting opened by the delegates singing a Labour song.

The Congress was opened by Mr. Vaino Tanner (chairman of the General Committee of the Union) giving a twenty minutes' address. After which came the appointment of two chairmen (Mr. Vaino Tanner and Mr. Otto Kartin, late M.P.); two secretaries; organising committee of six; counters of votes, two; and adjusters of the minutes, two in number. Then came the introduction of the foreign delegates by Mr. Vaino Tanner. Hearty greetings from English co-operators was given and good wishes by the Union's delegate from the International Alliance, who was unable to be represented owing to Congress in Dublin being held simultaneously.

The business of the Congress began by the annual report of the Union formed by the co-operative districts, drawn up by Mr. Eliel Kopperi (manager of the Consultative Office). "The Position of the Co-operative Movement with regard to Home Industries," postponed from the last annual meeting, was introduced by Mr. J. V. Keto (official of the Consultative Office). The gist of the subject was to support home industries, whilst safeguarding the interests of the workers by trade union conditions, but keeping in view the

development of co-operative productions. The findings were accepted by Congress.

The next question was how the auditing of the books of the co-operative societies should be arranged, which was introduced by Mr. Heikki Rekolainen (Tampere Co-operative District). "That, with a view to rendering the auditing of the co-operative societies more practical, the Congress recommends the societies to choose a person proposed by the Finnish Co-operative Wholesale Society as an auditor, and, in addition to this, to choose at least two local auditors who are well acquainted with the conditions of the place and, if possible, with business life." This was accepted by Congress.

The next subject was "Are the Co-operative Societies to support Labour Disputes?" The General Committee's proposal was accepted, viz.: "It being important for the success of the co-operative movement that the said movement be conducted with due attention to its own objects and that the continuity of the co-operative movement be in every respect supported, the annual meeting recommends co-operative societies to abstain from rendering direct assistance to labour disputes; but whenever a local labour dispute affects the majority of the members of co-operative societies and thereby endangers the possibilities of success of the co-operative societies, it may be advisable that the co-operative society supports those of the members engaged in the labour dispute. As co-operation cannot attain its object, viz., the creation of powerful consumptive organisation, unless it assists poor consumers otherwise than by supplying articles of consumption, the co-operative societies should found funds, such as subsidiary loan funds, relief funds, and saving funds in order to protect their members against losses caused by economical disputes, thus also labour disputes. The co-operative societies may, if necessary, boycott the products of an establishment of production engaged in the labour dispute, but the adoption of this mode of procedure, with the exception of local measures, should be left to the decision of the central organs of trade and consumptive organisations."

Congress agreed to the findings.

The next matter was proportional mode of election in the matter of appointing delegates at the district and annual meetings. It was (1) to the meetings of the Union, one delegate for each 500 members; (2) to the district meetings, one delegate for each 300 members; and the same ratio for the Congress.

This was not accepted by Congress.

Then came a subject concerning the founding of Sick Relief, Accident, Insurance, and Burial Funds, adjourned from last Congress. The General Committee recommended that the matter be dropped. Congress, however, adjourned the business.

The next matter was that the consultative and educational work be relinquished by the Finnish Co-operative Wholesale Society. The General Committee's finding was accepted by the delegates, viz., "That Congress, without at this time settling the question, charges the General Committee with

giving a detailed opinion upon the matter, to be ready by the next annual meeting."

The next subject was the duty of persons in the service of the co-operative movement to belong as members and buyers to the co-operative societies. The General Committee proposed that the Congress recommend the officials of co-operative societies and of the Finnish Co-operative Wholesale Society, if they are not already members of a co-operative society, to join such society and to make their purchases in co-operative concerns; and at the same annual meeting declares it to be the duty of the members of co-operative organisations to make all their purchases in their own co-operative societies.

Then was submitted the programme of operations of the co-operative districts, which was accepted.

Place for next Congress.—There were five applicants, all pleading ably, but the delegates nearly unanimously voted for Helsingfors, which town is now the capital of Finland and the headquarters of the Finnish Co-operative Wholesale Society. The Co-operative Wholesale Society was started in 1904 with twelve societies federated; in 1914 there were 208.

There was a vast meeting, at which all the delegates' wives and friends were entertained, after which a 60 mile trip upon the lake was given, the party of some hundreds being taken in four pleasure steamers. To finish up the affairs of the Congress an open-air festival was held in the grounds of the Fire Brigade at Pyyrikki. Hundreds, headed by a band, took part in a procession, and there were sports and national dances for all who liked to join in.

REPORT OF THE GERMAN CONGRESS, HELD AT BREMEN, 14TH TO 20TH JUNE, 1914.

BY MR. R. R. PRYNNE.

The eleventh annual Congress of the Central Union of German co-operative societies was held at Bremen from the 14th to 20th June, 1914. There was a very large attendance at the Central Hall on Sunday evening, presided over by Herr Barth. Bremen being a "Free City," Dr. Tach, from the Senate, conveyed an official welcome to the delegates.

Besides representatives from France, Austria, Sweden, Holland, and Finland, there were present from our shores Mr. A. Whitehead (International Co-operative Alliance), Messrs. Hayhurst and Shotton (Co-operative Wholesale Society), and the writer representing the Union.

The delegates from the various countries conveyed the good wishes of their organisations to the Congress. The rule that ten minutes' speeches be allowed being very liberally interpreted by our friends from Austria and France.

On Monday, Herr Kaufmann (General Secretary) gave a general report on the work of the Union, and questions concerning Education, Joint Wages Boards, Relations with Employés, &c., occupied the time of Congress much

in the same way as with ourselves. Dr. August Müller took a prominent part in the debate on the wages question, his recommendations to Congress being accepted, to the effect that the methods adopted during the last ten years be continued.

Several of the German delegates being proficient in our language kindly gave us the benefit of a translation either during or after the speeches, which enabled us to follow the debates.

On Wednesday the British delegates visited Hamburg and inspected the premises of the Central Union, with its important Publishing Society, and also the premises of the German Wholesale Society. Herr Kaufmann kindly arranged that we should be conducted through the former premises, which are much more elaborate than our own, and Herr Koch and Herr Storr did their very best to show us the Wholesale and other sights of Hamburg in the few hours at our disposal.

The Congress continued to the end of the week, and terminated with an excursion to the Island of Heligoland, but ere this the British delegates had bidden farewell to their co-operative fellows in Germany, hoping to meet some of them in friendly intercourse another year. Little did any of us think that within six weeks of this visit our nations would be engaged in the most terrific struggle in the history of the world.

REPORT OF NORWEGIAN CONGRESS, HELD AT CHRISTIANIA, 19TH AND 20TH JUNE, 1914.

BY MR. GEORGE WILSON.

As the representative of the Co-operative Union I attended the Congress of the Norwegian co-operators, held at Christiania. On Wednesday, 17th June, I sailed from Grangemouth in the S.S. "Scotland," and had a very fine sea passage. Although our boat was timed to arrive on the Friday evening we were a few hours behind time, and did not arrive till early on Saturday morning.

I made my way to the Victoria Hotel, secured for me by our Norwegian friends, and there I met Messrs. Graham and Dudley, of the English Wholesale Society; also Messrs. Meurer and Sparr, representing the German co-operators, and Mr. J. Anderson, representing the Swedish co-operators.

Mr. Dehli called at the hotel with a motor to convey us to the Congress Hall, where, on arriving, we met Messrs. W. R. Allan and E. Ross, the representatives of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

There were about 100 delegates present, and as Saturday was set apart for the hearing of the foreign delegates we were called upon to speak. Before leaving home I had a note from Mr. H. J. May (secretary, International Co-operative Alliance) asking me to also represent the Alliance and say a few words on its behalf. I willingly agreed to do so, considering it a great privilege.

I was called upon to speak on behalf of the British Co-operative Union and also the Alliance, and congratulated them on the splendid gathering, conveying the fraternal greetings and heartiest good wishes of the British Co-operative Union for the success of the co-operative movement in Norway. I gave them a few figures relating to the progress of our movement during the past year. Then referred to the work of the International Alliance, and conveyed the good wishes of that body to our Norwegian friends. I commented on the good work the Alliance was doing in the various countries represented in its membership, giving a few figures showing the progress of the international movement as it was presented to the Congress in Glasgow.

Afterwards, Mr. Dudley (Co-operative Wholesale Society) conveyed the good wishes of his society, and also Mr. Allan (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society). Our speeches were interpreted by Mr. Dehli, and seemed to be greatly appreciated by the applause which followed. The German and Swedish representatives spoke on behalf of their countries.

After the Congress rose we were invited to supper at Hollmonkollen Tourist Hotel, which was about one hour's journey by electric train up the hill from Christiania. On arriving there we were placed in position for a photograph to be taken.

There was a splendid gathering inside the hotel, the Norwegian friends turning out in goodly numbers with their wives and lady friends. Mr. Dehli occupied the chair, and gave all a hearty welcome. The repast provided was all that could be desired and reflected great credit on our Norwegian friends for the way they provided for our comfort and entertainment. From the outside of this hotel one can never forget the splendid view you have of Christiania and its famous fjords, the splendour of which it would be hard to excel.

There was an added interest to this year's Congress at Christiania, owing to the fact that they were celebrating the centenary of their independence. There was a beautiful exhibition taking place in the city celebrating the event. On the following day we agreed to visit the exhibition in company with Mr. Dehli, which we enjoyed very much. There were some splendid exhibits showing the progress the country had made in almost every department of national life during the past hundred years.

Messrs. Graham and Dudley had to leave, travelling *via* Copenhagen and Gothenburg on business for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Along with Messrs. Allan and Ross I visited the premises of the Wholesale Society, and we were shown through the various departments, which seemed to us to be rather congested for the business they had to do, but they were considering the advisability of extending, which would, no doubt, be of great advantage to them.

On Wednesday I had arranged to leave on the homeward journey, booking my passage with the Wilson Line S.S. "Eskimo" for Hull. We left at 1 p.m., the weather being delightful for the return journey. We arrived at Christiansand at 11 p.m., and stayed for one hour, leaving again at 12 mid-

night. We had a fairly good sea passage, and arrived in Hull on Friday morning.

In conclusion, allow me to thank the Central Board and the Scottish Section for giving me the appointment, and also to Messrs. Dudley and Graham (Co-operative Wholesale Society) and Messrs. Allan and Ross (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) for their companionship during my stay. I have specially to thank Mr. Dehli, who is fairly well known to the British co-operators, for his untiring efforts on our behalf to make us feel at home in Christiania, and who did everything possible for our comfort and entertainment.

REPORT OF THE SWEDISH CONGRESS, HELD AT STOCKHOLM, 25TH AND 26TH JUNE, 1914.

BY MR. J. MURDOCH.

On the 20th July I left London, in company with Messrs. Thorpe and Marshall (Co-operative Wholesale Society), to pay my second visit to our co-operative friends in Sweden. We reached Stockholm on the evening of the 24th, and shortly after our arrival we had the pleasure of meeting our good friend Mr. Rosling, who at once made himself responsible for our comfort during our brief stay in their midst.

The Congress opened under the most favourable circumstances. The sun was shining in all its glory, casting a pleasing reflection on the various flags and emblems with which the hall was decorated. The delegates in attendance—somewhere about 300—took their seats, when Mr. Rosling, who presided, gave a brief address. Though quite unintelligible to us, it seemed to give unbounded satisfaction to our Swedish friends.

After the roll call, came the reception of the foreign delegates, and our friends from Germany, Norway, and Denmark having spoken, I had an opportunity of conveying to the assembly, friendly greetings on behalf of the Co-operative Union. I had also the same pleasant duty to perform on behalf of the Executive of the International Co-operative Alliance. Mr. Thorpe, who followed, gave a brief statement showing the wonderful growth and development of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr. Rosling feelingly reciprocated the kindly sentiments which delegates from other countries had expressed, and hoped that this spirit of mutual trust and fellowship would continue to grow deeper and stronger.

Thereafter the consideration of the various reports was proceeded with, and one could not help but admire the intelligent animation displayed amongst the delegates during this interesting part of the Congress routine. The most important item on the agenda was the alteration of rules, and it was very evident that the said alterations were opposed strongly by many of the delegates. However, towards the close of the discussion we learned from Mr. Pahlman that a general agreement had been reached to the satisfaction of all parties.

After the rising of Congress on the Friday afternoon, delegates had the pleasure of a trip down the bay to one of the islands, where there is a fort. Having landed, a procession was formed, and, led by the band, we marched through the village to the summit of a hill, where songs and recitations were contributed by various members of the company. The poet, who was also in evidence, gave us examples of his genius, which, judging by the applause that greeted their delivery, were very much appreciated. It was about 10 p.m. when we arrived back in Stockholm, after having, in common with the other delegates, enjoyed a very pleasant outing.

Before separating we took the opportunity of thanking our Swedish brethren for the kindly manner in which they had received us, and for their hospitality, expressing the hope that at our next Congress (which would be held at Leicester) we would have the pleasure of extending to their delegates the same generous treatment which had been meted out to us. Thus we parted, they to continue their festivities to a still later hour, and we to make preparations for our departure on the morrow.

I can assure you that the pleasure derived from our intercourse with the friends in Sweden and the fellowship of Messrs. Thorpe and Marshall will not readily be forgotten.

REPORT OF THE SWISS CONGRESS, HELD AT BERNE, 13TH AND 14TH JUNE, 1914.

BY MR. W. DEWHURST.

The annual Congress of Swiss co-operators for 1914 was held at Berne, and, being authorised by my colleagues to attend on behalf of the British co-operators and the International Alliance, I now submit a brief report of my visit.

I arrived at Berne on the evening of 12th June, the Congress arrangements being made for the two following days. A very large National and Industrial Exhibition was held at the time the Congress took place, and many temporary buildings had to be erected for holding the national and international gatherings of all descriptions during the period of the exhibition. One of these structures was placed at the disposal of co-operators for their Congress meetings, and it was found to be well adapted for the purpose.

Congress met at 8 a.m., and after a few preliminaries the President (Dr. R. Kundig) gave his inaugural address, which was delivered in French, but as there was a large number of delegates present who were conversant with German only the substance of the address was translated into their language. This process was repeated with all the speeches, and this, naturally, gave the meeting the appearance of an international gathering. I was informed that a sprinkling of Italian delegates were also present, and these would have to rely upon the translated reports of the proceedings given in the Press.

The business of Congress was suspended at 10 a.m. for a brief period for the purpose of giving a welcome to the foreign delegates. Messrs. P.

Coley and H. J. A. Wilkins were present on behalf of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the former voiced the good wishes of the Wholesale Society, and also gave some interesting particulars of the development of Wholesale trading in England. Conveying your fraternal greetings, your representative expressed the hope that each nationality would interpret more and more fully the co-operative ideal in its work, and that goodwill and peace might long continue.

After the reception of the various delegates from abroad the Congress continued to consider the agenda of business. The most contentious item, I was given to understand, was one dealing with a large scheme of insurance for co-operators, and a very heated and lengthy discussion was expected. However, the unexpected happened, as often occurs elsewhere, for after a very brief discussion the matter was adjourned for twelve months in order that full inquiries might be made. The business was very quickly got through, and what was intended to be a two days' gathering was completed in one. I rather fancy the very interesting exhibition in close proximity to our meeting had something to do with the expeditious dispatch of business.

The interest and pleasure of my two days' stay in Berne was greatly added to by the help given by my colleagues from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, whose knowledge of Continental travel was so much superior to my own. We were also indebted to Mr. P. J. Greuter, of Winterthur, who acted as our guide and interpreter during our stay in Berne. Mr. Greuter also arranged to meet me the following Wednesday in Zurich to give me the opportunity of seeing something of the work being done by the society there. At Zurich I was greatly surprised to find a large up-to-date building occupied by the society, in fact, I have seen none to excel it in my own country.

My visit has convinced me that we may with very great profit to ourselves study more closely the work that is being done by our friends abroad, and learn how more fully we may apply the principles of the movement to the problems of our social and economic life. The privilege given me by my colleagues of visiting this most interesting and beautiful country, and spending a brief period amongst Continental co-operators was highly valued and I wish to express my hearty appreciation of same.

VIII.—SUMMARISED REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILDS.

I.—ENGLAND:

SUMMARISED REPORT, APRIL, 1914—APRIL, 1915.

(See Report 49, page 159.)

Central Committee.

Mrs. Barton (president).

Mrs. Coffey.

„ Eddie (vice-president).

„ Cottrell.

Miss Allen (treasurer).

„ Found.

Miss Llewelyn Davies (general secretary), Edmonton.

During the year about forty new branches have been formed, making the total number of branches about 630. The membership in April, 1914, was over 32,000, but the returns for this year have not yet come in.

As in the case of all other educational organisations, the work of the guild has been considerably affected by the war. The call upon our members for work on relief committees and for relief funds was widespread. In many cases the billeting of soldiers interfered with attendance at branch meetings, while the taking over of halls in some towns prevented regular meetings. In some districts it proved impossible to hold conferences. On the other hand, the attention of guild members was called from the first to the special evidence given of the advantages of co-operation over private trading in times of crisis, and the importance of using this evidence as a means of propaganda was widely recognised. Similarly, the need for supporting co-operative productions at this time was strongly pressed, and formed one of the points for discussion at the autumn sectional conferences.

COURSES FOR GUIDES.

We desire to express our thanks to the Central Education Committee for kindly continuing the Guides courses. These were held at fourteen centres, two in each section. In order to give further opportunities to those who had attended last year, one Guides course in each section was held at the same place as last year, while the other course was held at a new place. In addition, Coventry Educational Committee arranged a course.

The syllabuses taken included "How to Read a Balance Sheet," "Co-operation as the Democratic Control of Industry," "Co-operation and the War," and "National Care of Maternity."

As was only to be expected, the attendance was considerably affected by the war, both because many members were much occupied, and because the numerous calls for relief funds, together with the rise in prices, made the outlay for fares to attend the classes impossible for them. Last year students came from distances which in some cases meant an outlay of £1 or more. Attendance under the circumstances was, however, satisfactory, 300 to 400 taking part in the fourteen courses.

THE GUILD SCHOOL.

In preparation for the Guides courses, a guild school for the head guides and others was held, towards the expenses of which the Central Education Committee most kindly contributed £10

A series of three lectures was given by Mr. L. S. Woolf, on

1. The Control of Industry by the People.
2. The Effects of War on Commerce and Industry.
3. Co-operative Action in National Crises.

The remarkable position of co-operation as the one method of trading which benefited the whole nation was brought out in the lectures. The discussions were of great interest, showing a real grasp of the economic facts dealt with. The lectures have been printed as pamphlets.

Two lectures on "How to Read a Balance Sheet" were given by Mrs. Abbott (Tunbridge Wells), which are being published as a pamphlet. Mrs. Hills and Miss Bondfield spoke on "The National Care of Maternity." Mrs. Hills gave a most interesting account of the causes of infant mortality and the remedies, and dealt with the importance of taking advantage of the new Act which, by making a residence of one year in the town or county area a qualification for town and county councils, enables married women to stand for election. Miss Bondfield dealt with some problems of organisation of the national care of maternity.

TWO-DAYS SCHOOLS AND MEMBERS CLASSES.

Most successful two-days schools have been held in a number of districts. Two are being held in Yorkshire, two have been held in the South, and two in the Midlands. In the Lancashire Section every district is organising a two-days school. The subjects taken have been "Co-operation and the War" (two lectures) and "The National Care of Maternity." As a rule, it has been arranged that either the first or last lecture should be combined with the district conference, and this has enabled a larger number to attend the school than would otherwise have been possible.

The number of members classes has not been so large as last year, mainly owing to the disorganisation of work due to the war. Several have, however, been satisfactorily held.

REPORT OF DRESSMAKING INQUIRY.

A full report of the inquiry made last year into co-operative dressmaking departments was issued for the Guild Annual Congress in 1914. The inquiry showed that there is the greatest variety in the methods adopted in co-operative societies. Apart from the method of accountancy, the main conclusion is that the future of the trade—which is, or should be, a highly skilled one—rests largely with those responsible for its management. Where the department is well run, with a good manageress and staff, that department will have a good name and will be patronised; but if the trade is based upon young and ill-paid, or unpaid, labour, good work cannot be turned out.

It should be noted that neither wages nor profits appear to have any very direct connection with prices. Six societies, paying the minimum scale, have the following charges for costumes:—10s. 6d., 11s. 6d., 12s. 6d., and 13s. Four societies, with wages below the minimum, charge respectively 15s. 6d., 14s. 6d., and 14s. It is noticeable that, of the minimum wage societies quoted, five out of the six are paying 30s. or more to their manageresses.

A number of recommendations were made, of which the following is a summary:—

1. The method of accountancy should allow a fair profit on the materials used in the dressmaking department (say a discount of 25 or 20 per cent).

2. That all apprentices should be paid the minimum scale of 2s. 6d. the first year, 5s. the second, and 7s. 6d. the third. All dressmaking employés after apprenticeship should be paid not less than the minimum scale according to age, and this scale should be extended to include rises for workers over twenty. The minimum for manageresses should be at least 30s. a week.

3. That overtime should be paid for at the rate of time and a quarter, and that in slack times work for stock should be organised as far as possible.

4. That a sufficient proportion of skilled hands to apprentices should be employed, and that apprentices should be properly trained.

Several guild district conferences have considered the dressmaking report, many of those taking part in the discussion being women with practical experience of the trade. They have emphasised the importance of good management, and a proper proportion of skilled workers and payment of all apprentices. We believe that if management committees would hold round table conferences with guild branches on questions connected with such departments as drapery, dressmaking, millinery, valuable suggestions would be made by our members and loyalty would be stimulated.

SOME SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

The Minimum Wage.—Progress continues to be made in the adoption of the minimum wage for co-operative women employés. Branches were reminded of the importance of pressing for its adoption where not yet in force, owing to the rise in the cost of living. It is satisfactory to note that the fears that the adoption of the scale would injure the Co-operative Wholesale Society have proved entirely unfounded, the Co-operative Wholesale Society's profits being record ones.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society's 6d. Dividend.—The Central Committee passed the following resolution:—

Disbelieving in the general policy of increased dividend, the Central Committee greatly regrets that the Co-operative Wholesale Society has raised its dividend to 6d., and they welcome the announcement that it is not intended to be permanent, and urge that surplus profits should be used to reduce the prices of the necessities of life or to raise wages.

The Co-operative News.—Branches have been asked to make special efforts to press the sale of the *News*.

Other Subjects.—Our sectional and district speakers have continued to advocate our regular co-operative subjects of "Push the Sales," "Open Membership," "Women on Co-operative Boards," "Sick-room Appliances," "Abolition of Entrance Fees," "Cash Trading," and have spoken at a large number of branches.

THE NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

While most social reform work became impossible through the war, the guild's special citizen subject of the year, "The National Care of Maternity," was raised to still greater importance.

Before the war new developments had been made. The Government had acknowledged the importance of the pregnancy sickness benefit by giving a grant to cover any deficit incurred by approved societies in paying it, experience having shown that the amount of illness due to this cause had been greatly under-estimated. At the same time, the Government recognised the needs of women excluded from insurance, by encouraging public health authorities to develop their work for maternity and infant welfare, and by making a grant of 50 per cent of the cost. The deputation from the guild, which was received by the President of the Local Government Board last year, put forward definite proposals as to what was needed in this direction, and the epoch-making circular issued by the Local Government Board at the end of July outlined a scheme covering most of these proposals.

It should be noted that the personal experience of guildswomen, expressed in special letters from over 400 of our members, had shown the urgent necessity for all these reforms.

When the war broke out, the guild gave increased attention to the national question of saving life, and many women's organisations co-operated in the work. The guild owes a special debt of gratitude to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who lent their splendid organiser, Mrs. Hills, while local members greatly helped with conferences and deputations to public health authorities.

The immediate objects aimed at were twofold. One was to urge public health authorities to provide maternity centres and carry out the Local Government Board scheme. The other was to urge the war relief committees to give special assistance to expectant and nursing mothers, (a) by the provision of dinners, (b) by schemes for "home helps," and (c) by paying for skilled advice at confinements where necessary. A leaflet was issued, which was widely distributed. Circulars urging these points were sent to the chairmen of relief committees, of public health committees, of town and county councils, and to medical officers of health. Guild branches were asked to approach their local relief and public health committees to press the scheme. The Workers' War Emergency Committee took it up and sent out our leaflet.

At the same time, steps were taken to organise a deputation to Mr. Samuel, as President of the Local Government Board and chairman of the Government Distress Committee, to urge the national importance of the scheme at this time. The Railway Women's Guild and Women's Labour League, as organisations mainly composed of married working women, joined in asking for the deputation, which was supported by the Medical Officers of Health Association, the Society for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, the League of Service for Providing Dinners, the Women Sanitary

Inspectors' Association, Dr. Fairbairn (St. Thomas's Hospital), Miss Simmonds (Rotherhithe Infant Consultations). Mr. Samuel made a most sympathetic reply, and promised to issue special circulars to the relief committees and public health authorities, urging the development of the work suggested.

The guild then pressed forward its work in the country. In no less than seventy-one towns branches arranged conferences of local women's organisations in order to send joint deputations to public health authorities. Special speakers were supplied for these conferences. Resolutions were sent to the municipal bodies, and in thirty-three towns joint deputations have already waited on the health committee or town council. In London and greater London a special campaign was organised. Joint conferences were held in twelve boroughs, and in nine of these deputations were arranged.

The result of all this work cannot be summarised. In many places comprehensive schemes have been framed by the public health authorities, in others additional work has been undertaken, while in others the agitation is still going forward.

The most striking and complete scheme is that recently adopted in Bradford, which includes health visitors, a fine new building for infant consultations, with a milk depôt and observation ward, a clinic for children between one and five years, dinners for expectant and nursing mothers, lectures on health, and the first municipal maternity home, with consultations for expectant mothers and beds for complicated cases, and municipal midwives.

The work done is remarkable, not only for the immediate results, but as showing the great value of close touch between an organisation representing the women and the Government Department concerned. It is an example of what ought to be the real meaning of politics in a democratic state, where the Government carried out the will of the people.

To meet the cost of the work, a special fund of over £160 was raised, to which many sympathisers subscribed. Two leaflets on urban and rural work have been published and are having a large sale.

OTHER WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAR.

(1) *Representation on War Relief Committees.*—Immediately it was proposed to form war relief committees, the guild realised the importance of securing representatives of working women's organisations on them. Guild branches were recommended to at once apply locally for representation, and about 320 guild members were appointed on to central and ward committees in about 160 towns. The work done has been excellent, especially in connection with the care of maternity and unemployed women.

(2) *The Workers' War Emergency Committee.*—The need for close co-operation between all Labour organisations to watch the interests of the workers in this national crisis was equally obvious, and the guild joined in the formation of the Workers' War Emergency Committee. Among the

questions taken up by the committee, the following are those in which the guild took special action :—

(a) *Naval and Military Pensions and Allowances.*—Our branches took a most active part in the agitation for proper provision for wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors. A very large number of branches sent in resolutions to their M.P.'s on this question. A memorandum was sent in to the Select Committee specially urging the importance of proper provision for the widows when the children's allowances ceased. A further memorandum has also been sent in suggesting that the Insurance Commission, with its very efficient staff of women and men inspectors, should be made the central authority for matters connected with pensions and allowances.

Another side of the question was dealt with in a letter sent to the War Office and Home Office protesting against the order placing wives of soldiers under police supervision. This order has since been allowed to drop into disuse.

(b) *The Rise in Prices.*—Our members have spoken out strongly on the rise in prices. An article was published in the "Corner," recommending branches to write to their M.P.'s. The guild was represented at the National conference held in London.

(c) *Lowering School Age.*—The proposals to allow children to leave school at an earlier age for employment led several branches to protest, and the Central Committee sent a resolution to the Board of Education, asking that these proposals should be resisted.

(d) *Register of Women for War Service.*—This proposal raised grave problems, and the guild asked the War Emergency Committee to make a special point in their representations to the Government of the serious effects of excessive hours and low pay on the health of the future mothers of the nation. The guild supported the proposal that there should be a committee to deal with the whole question, on which women's industrial organisations should be strongly represented. The guild was represented at a conference summoned by the Board of Trade on 13th April, 1915, to consider the scheme and the conditions under which women's work should be organised.

(3) *Work for Soldiers and Sailors and Relief Funds.*—It is impossible to give any idea of the amount of work done by guild branches in regard to this. While avoiding voluntary work which might lessen paid employment of wage-earning women, guild branches have everywhere contributed, by money and gifts in kind, to Red Cross funds, comforts for soldiers and sailors, and Belgian relief funds.

A PERMANENT PEACE.

The consistent declarations of Co-operative Congresses in favour of arbitration as opposed to war can now be followed up with practical education on the methods of securing a permanent peace at the end of the war. The guild will be represented at the International Women's Congress, called by

the women of Holland to consider this question, and also at a conference of representatives from women's organisations in London.

WOMEN ON CO-OPERATIVE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

Last year, 93 women in 57 societies were elected on to management committees, and 408 women in 156 societies on to educational committees. There is one woman on the Central Board (Mrs. Gasson), and three women (Mrs. Eddie, Miss Woolley, and Miss Madams) on the Central Education Committee. Women members sit on all the educational committees' associations, and there are eight women on five district conference associations. Miss Webb is secretary of the Southern Convalescent Fund, and Mrs. Tomlinson is on the committee of the North-Western Convalescent Homes. Seventy-eight societies sent women delegates to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's quarterly meetings, but only 23 societies sent women delegates to the Co-operative Congress.

THE GUILD CONVALESCENT FUND.

The receipts in 1914 were £237. 12s. 6d., and the expenditure was £213. 0s. 2d. The number of convalescents sent away was 128, a decrease of 39 on the preceding year. Owing to the war, there were fewer applications than usual in the summer months.

THE SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE GUILD.

We deeply regret that differences have arisen on a question of principle between the guild and the Central Board, resulting in the withdrawal of the grant of £400 to the guild.

In considering the claim of the guild to self-government, it must be remembered that the guild has been built up by the women themselves as a self-governing organisation inside the co-operative movement. Its funds are, and always have been, largely contributed by its members themselves. Every member must be a co-operator, but the guild is not part of the Co-operative Union. As a guild, it has no representation on the Central or United Board or at Congress, where the number of women delegates definitely appointed by societies has never exceeded 25 to 30.

Owing to an agitation engineered by an outside non-co-operative body—the Salford Catholic Federation—the Central Board at Dublin required the guild to give up the discussion of a question of social reform which had been on its programme for four years without objection, and to submit its subjects and policy to the veto of the United Board, on which it has no representation.

The conditions laid down by the Central Board were brought before the Guild Annual Congress, attended by 864 delegates from over 400 branches. The following resolution was passed:—

Seeing that the position of the guild has been maintained through its power to act independently and to develop on its own

lines, this Congress declares that it cannot accept the conditions laid down by the Central Co-operative Board as regards its grant to the guild, believing that the future progress of the guild and of the co-operative movement depends on the guild policy being democratically controlled, as in the past, by the members themselves.

The resolution was conveyed to the Central Board on 19th September, 1914, by a deputation consisting of the Guild Central Committee.

We were afterwards informed the following resolution was passed by the C.C.B. :—

That we make the grant for the present year to the Women's Co-operative Guild, provided they will suspend their propaganda on Divorce Law Reform until Congress has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion upon the question of the conditions under which grants may be made by the Central Board to other bodies.

It will be seen that the proposed control of the guild subjects was not given up, but only postponed, while the imposition of a condition was maintained. The Central Committee, after the most careful consideration, decided it was impossible to accept the grant.

[For a full statement of the guild's position and the correspondence on the subject, see the pamphlet published by the guild.]

During the autumn the subject was discussed at many guild district conferences. Everywhere a very large majority supported the position of the Central Committee. The subscriptions to the special fund to replace the £400 showed this support most strongly. Notwithstanding all the claims of this abnormal time, over £350 has been subscribed, and donations are coming in continually. In making this stand for its own self-government, the guild believes that it is upholding a principle of vital importance to the co-operative movement, because freedom of speech and action for rank and file educational organisations is essential for the progress of the movement. Such organisations do not speak in the name of the movement, but keep open the door for the new ideas and developments which must continually arise if the objects of co-operation are to be attained.

FUNDS.

Two special funds have been raised during the year. The "Citizenship Fund" amounted to £204. 1s. 10d. from 14th October, 1913, to 31st December, 1914. The expenditure was £203. 9s. 6d. The "National Care of Maternity Fund" amounted to £162. 15s. 6d., and the expenditure up to 31st December, 1914, was £71. 14s. 9d.

The statement of accounts of the general funds of the guild is as follows :—

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1914.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand 1st January, 1914—							
Coming-of-Age Fund		67	14	2½			
Less deficit on Central Fund		19	13	11			
					48	0	3½
„ Branch Subscriptions to Central Fund.....		253	0	8			
„ Self-Government Fund		258	4	4			
„ Donation from Co-operative Wholesale Society		125	0	0			
„ Annual Congress Fund—							
Donation from Co-operative Wholesale Society		25	0	0			
Repaid from Birmingham Congress Fund.....		15	16	0			
„ Sales—Literature		74	4	2			
Badges.....		52	14	2			
Business Books		15	1	5			
Membership Cards.....		6	1	2			
„ Balance from Congress Fund		47	11	3			
„ Coming-of-Age Fund		9	13	6			
„ Loan for Business Books		100	0	0			
„ Dividend and Interest.....		2	1	2			
					982	7	10
					£1030	8	1½

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
By Postage, Telegrams, and Parcels		74	0	1½
„ Stationery.....		31	17	0½
„ Printing.....		57	4	6
„ Central Committee—Fares and Postage		35	2	2½
„ Speakers' Expenses		12	16	0
„ Representatives' Expenses		30	14	9½
„ Literature		67	7	7
„ Badges		29	11	2
„ Grants to Sections		145	14	0
„ Honorariums to Sectional Secretaries		52	0	0
„ Sectional Conferences and Secretaries Meetings.....		17	13	7
„ Grants to Districts		11	15	0
„ Office Expenses.....		71	13	6
„ Clerks.....		136	11	6
„ National Insurance		2	9	0
„ Dressmaking Enquiry		6	14	9
„ Annual Congress Expenses		45	13	8
„ Coming-of-Age Fund		46	11	11½
„ Subscriptions to International Co-operative Alliance		2	0	0
„ Business Books		66	16	4
„ Repaid Loan		33	3	8
„ Auditor		1	1	0
„ Cheque Books and Bank Commission		1	3	8
„ Rent Owning		12	10	0
„ Balance in hand, 31st December, 1914—				
Coming-of-Age Fund	£30	15	9	
Central Fund.....	7	7	4	
				38 3 1
				£1030 8 1½

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ladies,

I have audited the foregoing account and certify same to be correct—

T. B. BUTTERWORTH, Public Auditor under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

London, 10th March, 1915.

II.—SCOTLAND.

The central council have again much pleasure in submitting the annual report and balance sheet for the past year.

The year we have just completed has been very successful, even in this awful time of war, and great progress has been made. The membership of already existing guilds has in some cases increased, while in others a slight decrease has taken place owing to the difficulties that had to be met in getting halls to meet in, as in some districts all the available accommodation was taken over for the Territorials. Seven new branches have been added to our number.

As in former years, every endeavour has been made to spread the principles of true co-operation, and to urge the need for loyalty to the movement by the purchase of co-operative productions.

Our branches have all been working for the soldiers and sailors, and have been able to give valuable help in the way of providing comforts for our brave men at the front.

The educational part of the guild work is going forward, numerous papers and lectures, equally varied and interesting, having been delivered.

The Speakers' Classes, or Guide's Course for Women Co-operators, held under the auspices of the Co-operative Union in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Motherwell, Kilmarnock, Paisley, Alloa, and Kirkcaldy, were well attended, the greatest interest having been taken in the subjects set for study.

THE SECTIONS.

Two new sections have been formed, making seven in all. The committees of the sections have worked enthusiastically, and have been the means of opening new branches and of encouraging and helping on the weaker ones.

COMING-OF-AGE FUND.

The sum of £802. 3s. 5d. has been raised, and meanwhile £800 has been paid over to the Homes Committee. The sum of £130. 11s. 8d. has been collected for the fund by the sale of penny bricks. Thus the total sum collected for the fund and realised by the sale of bricks stands at £932. 15s. 1d.

OUR POSITION IN THE MOVEMENT.

We are pleased to report that the number of women on boards of management and educational committees is still increasing, while many have been appointed to committees in connection with the National War Relief Fund and war emergency committees for dealing with unemployment during war time.

DUBLIN CONGRESS.

The Co-operative Union received a deputation from the guild—Mrs. Buchan and Mrs. Hunter (general secretary)—who were appointed to make a request for an increase of grant. The request was granted, making the yearly grant £150.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the guild took place on Saturday, 23rd May, 1914, and was a most enthusiastic meeting. The large St. Mungo Hall was well filled with 600 delegates and visitors, men as well as women, when the president took the chair at 11-30, and was accompanied on the platform by the officials of the guild movement in Scotland, and Mrs. Booth (vice-president of the English Guild).

Mr. Low (Kinning Park) assured them that the welcome he extended was most sincere.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Buchan, in opening the regular proceedings of the meeting, thanked all the delegates for their presence and Mr. Low for his appreciation and his kindly welcome. She hoped that their meeting would be a harmonious and useful one, and a further demonstration of their ability to conduct their affairs on business lines, combined with expedition. During the twelve months just completed they, as a guild, had had a fairly busy time. Possibly they had not done all that they could, or as much as some might think they should have done; but they had not been idle, and the best appreciation of their efforts was that recorded in the annual report, showing the abnormal increases in both branches and membership. They were, however, quite alive to the fact that their numbers, though growing steadily, were as yet only a fraction of what they should be. They had only about 10 per cent of the women connected with the co-operative movement on their roll, and until they could claim nearer 50 per cent they should not consider that they had reached their maximum. Then they should attend to the careful drawing up of their syllabuses, so as to make their meetings truly social and bring the members out of themselves; keeping their present members and attracting new ones; carrying out the original purpose for which they were formed by fostering the growth of the societies; showing to boards of management and educational committees that they were associated for this purpose; and demonstrating to them, by the success and enthusiasm of the guild meetings, that the guilds were a power to have on their side, and that their interests were those of the guilds, and that common interest made for a common purse.

GREETINGS FROM THE ENGLISH GUILD

Mrs. Booth (vice-president of the council of the English Guild) conveyed the greetings, as she put it, of over 31,000 English guildswomen to their Scottish sisters.

The President read a letter from Miss Clerk (secretary of the Irish Guild), regretting that, as the guild was concentrating all its attention on the Dublin Congress, they were unable to be represented at this year's Scottish Guild conference. She also intimated that there would be a grand rally of guildswomen in Dublin on the afternoon of Wednesday, 3rd June, at 3-30, at which she hoped to see representatives from the Scottish Guild.

MINUTES OF CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The secretary read the synopses of the minutes of the meetings of the central council held during the year. From these it was noted that Mrs. Buchan and Mrs. Hunter were to attend the Dublin Congress.

Mrs. Muir (St. George Central Branch) moved the adoption of the minutes, which was agreed to.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

The annual report was taken page by page, but was gone through without a single comment.

The President called the attention of the delegates to the fact that seventeen new branches had been formed during the year and were represented at that meeting, and extended to them a welcome. She felt that some of them would be a source of strength in districts where the movement was weak at present, referring specially to Aberdeen Branch.

Mrs. Crighton (auditor) congratulated the council and the delegates on the excellent report, describing it as the best report which had ever come before the Women's Guild. The increase in membership had been 1,948, and she thought the branches and the sections should make up their minds that next year they were going to add another 1,000 to this. She recommended the balance sheet for approval.

Mr. Trainer (auditor) corroborated. He suggested also that the time had come when the secretary should be given a small office, where she could attend at stated times to meet those who wished to see her.

Mrs. Weir (Section II.) called attention to the expenditure of the members of the central council on delegations, and suggested that in future the delegations and the expenses should be shown separately.

The President stated that this had been done in former years, and the particulars could be given if desired. The reason for slumping together these items was that the size of the expenditure column was growing, and it was done to save space.

Mrs. Weir said she did not wish the details, but only suggested that the two items should be separated next year.

Mrs. Chalmers (St. Rollox) moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet, and this was seconded by Mrs. Williamson (St. George Central), and approved.

Mrs. Horne was elected as a representative on the committee of the Veterans' Association.

REMUNERATION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mrs. Muir (St. George Central) moved that the salary of the secretary be increased by £5 per annum, and Mrs. Swan moved that that of the treasurer be increased by £2 per annum, and this was agreed to without comment.

It was moved and seconded that the president get £2 per annum, and was declared agreed to.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. BUCHAN.

Mrs. Hunter (general secretary) made a presentation to the president. She said Mrs. Buchan had been for long associated with the co-operative movement and the Women's Guild, and, after having with great acceptance filled several important offices, had now completed four years' occupancy of the presidential chair of the guild. She thought they would agree with her when she said that in this capacity Mrs. Buchan had shown outstanding tact and ability and the best qualities of heart and mind, thereby aiding in no small degree to the forward move of the guild and the co-operative cause. These qualities were also shown in the "History of the Guild," which she had recently written, and which would remain a token of her industry, perseverance, and talent, as well as a valuable record of the women's work in the co-operative movement. "Mrs. Buchan," she said, "I feel the greatest honour and take the utmost pleasure in handing to you, in the name of the guild, this memento, which is a visible embodiment of their feelings towards you, and we hope you may be long spared to aid the movement by the exercise of those valuable qualities which in the past you have so conspicuously yet modestly displayed."

Mrs. Buchan thanked them one and all for the manner in which they had received this item on the agenda, and especially Mrs. Hunter for her kind words and flattering remarks, and for the way in which she had carried out this duty. When she was elected to the chair she had taken it as the highest honour that guildswomen could confer upon a sister. And she had had their support. As this was the last time she would preside as president, she had to admit she did it with a feeling of regret. It was very natural, as they were all loath to sever connections, especially when they had been so pleasant. But they welcomed new blood, and she hoped that her successor in office, Mrs. Tulloch, would receive the same sympathy and support as she had. Good luck to her! Upon them lay the responsibility of carrying on the work in which those who were retiring had had a slight share. She would just, in a word, thank them for their share in this handsome recognition for any little service she had given to the guild.

SUB-DIVISION OF SECTIONS.

There were motions from Kilmarnock Branch and from Section III. and the council dealing with the sub-division of Sections I. and III., and it was agreed that these be taken together. There was also a motion from

Section II. which called for a revision of the rules, the sub-division of the rules, and consideration of the financial position. It was agreed that the proposal of the central council and those of Kilmarnock Branch and Section III. be taken together as the motion, and that the motion of Section II. be taken as the amendment. The voting resulted in the proposals of the central council for the sub-divisions of Section I. and III. being agreed to by a large majority.

The proposals of Section II. with regard to the formation of a committee for the revision of the rules and for the consideration of the financial relationships of the branches, the sections, and the council, were voted on against the proposal of the central council that 4d. per member should be paid by the branches to the central council, and that the council should finance the sections.

In explanation of the council's proposal, Mrs. Buchan stated that with the division of Sections I. and III. they had now seven sections, and the suggestion of the council was that the subscription should be increased by a penny, and that the sections receive so much per member. The council considered that Sections I. and II. would require 3d. per member to work their sections; that Section III. would require 3½d. or 4d.; Section IV. would require 4½d. or 5d.; Section V. would require 5d.; Section VI. at least 3½d. or 4d.; and Section VII. would require 4d. If they took these and averaged them they would find that they would require an average of at least 4d.; and the central council, if their proposal was carried, would allocate the money in these proportions, and the branch secretaries would be relieved from paying into two funds.

The central council proposal was moved by Mrs. Horne (Stirling) and seconded by Mrs. M'Farlane (Kilmarnock).

Mrs. Bain (Section II.) said they had been promised a committee for the revision of the rules by the central council. The motion which had been passed for giving a salary to the president was an alteration of rule, and the section executive thought that an alteration might be made in some other of the rules. The time limit was recognised in the central council and the sections, and they thought it might be put into operation elsewhere. They were quite agreeable to what the council had arranged with regard to the sub-division of the sections, although they in Section II. thought they could manage with a few more. They had never dreamed of interfering with the finance of the association, but they in Section II. felt that they had not enough money to allow them to do all they would like to do. It was true that they had never been refused money by the central council, for they had never asked for any.

On the vote being taken, those parts of Section II.'s motion relating to the appointment of a committee to consider alteration of the rules and the financial position were agreed to, as against the proposal of the central council that an extra penny should be paid, and that the money should be pooled with the central council.

Mr. Wilkie (Greenock Central) moved—

That the committee be composed of representatives from each of the sections, from the central council, and three from the educational committees.

After a course of voting, Messrs. Murray (Grahamston and Bainsford), Watt (Bellshill and Mossend), and Wilkie (Greenock Central) were elected to represent the educational committees, the central council and the sections appointing their own representatives.

It was agreed that two representatives be sent to the English Guild Congress—one from the central council and one from the sections.

COMING-OF-AGE FUND.

The Treasurer reported in the coming-of-age fund for the Mothers' and Children's Home. £794. 14s. 3d. had been given in donations, £34. 2s. had been received for "Histories" sold, and £20. 15s. 3d. had been received as interest, making a total of £804. 14s. 6d. There had been paid for printing, £100; for expenses, £19. 0s. 6d.; and there had been given to the Homes Committee £600; leaving a balance in hand of £85. 14s.

ELECTIONS.

Mrs. Tulloch (St. George Central), being the only nominee, was declared elected president for one year; Mrs. Hunter was unanimously re-elected secretary for one year; and Mrs. Rough was unanimously re-elected treasurer. On a vote, Mrs. Crighton and Mr. Trainer were elected auditors.

CARRYING ON MENAGES.

On behalf of the central council, Mrs. M'Lean moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting of guildswomen assembled deprecate the system of individual members or guildswomen dealing in clubs, menages, &c.; consider such not to be in the interests of the co-operative movement; and pledge themselves to discountenance all such dealing.

It had come to the knowledge of the central council that there were many women connected with guilds who dealt in these clubs and menages, and they all recognised that their guilds were not recruiting grounds for any such purpose, and that it was the duty of the guildswomen to have such facilities for their members provided by the societies. One of their largest societies did a trade by means of the club system of over £7,000, and about £3,000 for the previous half year; and the largest society in the West of Scotland had done a trade of over £6,000 in the past year. This was a system which was of advantage to those with low wages, and it was for the guildswomen to point them to these clubs, where the profits would go to those purchasing, instead of putting the profits into the pockets of such women. She hoped the guildswomen would support the resolution.

Mrs. Deans (Central Council), in seconding, gave examples of what had come under her own observation.

Mr. Grossart (Kinning Park) moved the rejection of the resolution, on the ground that it did not express what Mrs. M'Lean said it did ; and this was seconded by Mr. Martin (Kinning Park), who said his committee had no objection to the spirit of the resolution, but only to its wording.

Mr. Gerrard suggested that the words "managed by individuals for their personal profit" should be added to the resolution, and this having been accepted by the central council, the Kinning Park amendment was withdrawn, and the resolution as amended became the unanimous finding of the meeting:

SPEAKERS' CLASSES.

On behalf of the central council, Mrs. Hill moved the following resolution :—

That this meeting of guildswomen assembled thanks the Co-operative Union for granting them the privilege of the Guild Guide's Course for Women Co-operators, and trusts that the same privilege will be granted to each section of the guild next session.

This was seconded by Mrs. Crawford (Central Council), and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Lucas (Central Education Committee) said he would have pleasure in conveying the thanks they had expressed to the Union.

The President introduced Mr. Seymour (Co-operative Convalescent Homes Association).

Mr. Seymour said the guild had done good work. No one could have listened to the president's address without realising that, and that they were all aware of the fact. He believed that most of the ladies present had only a superficial knowledge of the homes and the work which they had done. Since Seamill was opened, in 1896, over 56,000 people had passed through the homes, and he was there to beg for money. Mrs. M'Lean he knew to be one of the best beggars in Scotland, but he was not a bad beggar himself. For the permanent expenses of the homes—feu duties, taxes, and rents—£400 per annum were required, and if they had a sufficient income of a permanent nature to cover this expenditure, they would be able to devote the whole of the money they received from the societies for the maintenance fund to providing for the comfort of the patients. They charged 25s. for a fortnight, and it took them all their time to make ends meet. The guild had already raised about £8,000 for the homes, and now they wished to raise £10,000 for the purpose of this endowment, and he came to the guild to ask them to assist in raising it. The committee had come to the resolution of having a bazaar in the winter of 1915, and he had come to appeal to them, for the fact was they could not do without them. The homes committee needed the help of the guild in this work. Would they come and help ?

Mr. Weir (Glasgow and Suburbs Conference) moved—

That the reports of the representatives on the Scottish Council for Women's Trades and the Veterans' Association be held as read.

This was agreed to.

When consideration of the fixing of next place of meeting came up, Mr. Weir suggested that the method adopted with regard to the Scottish National Co-operative Conference should be adopted, and that the sections should be the entertainers in turn, a fund being got up for the purpose.

The President promised that this suggestion would be considered.

In general business, Mr. Millar (Shettleston) suggested that the branches should consider the formation of a fund for the purpose of a grand demonstration, by means of a payment of 2d. or 3d. per week during the session. By this means they might be able to make one of the finest efforts the co-operative movement had ever seen.

One of the delegates suggested that, instead of the annual report, a monthly report should be issued by the central council, and the president asked her to get notice of motion to that effect.

Mrs. Thomson voiced the thanks of the guild to Kinning Park Society for their hospitality.

Mrs. Tulloch (the new president) thanked the members for the great honour they had done her, and the two ladies who had been nominated for the presidency but had refused to stand against her. She had pleasure in supporting the vote of thanks to Kinning Park.

Mr. Maclean (president, Kinning Park Educational Committee) acknowledged the vote of thanks. He hoped they had enjoyed themselves. On looking over the reports he found that some of the educational committees did not do their duty to the guilds. They had only to look at the success of the Kinning Park guilds to know that the educational committee did its duty to them. If committees would take the interest they should take in the guilds, they would find them a very great help. They had children's guilds in Kinning Park, and the guildswomen were of great assistance with the children. He thought this was an object which the societies should take up, for there was a saying that the bairns were the hope of the future, and that was very true of the co-operative movement. If they did not bring the children along with them, they would find that they were being left. He believed that many of the children who had sat the Co-operative Union examination on "Our Story" could tell far more about the history and principles of the movement than many committee-men. He moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Buchan.

Mrs. Buchan said she thanked them all round, and hoped that the guild would grow like a green bay tree.

WOMEN'S GUILD EXCURSION—VISIT TO AIRDMHOR HOME.

The second annual excursion of the members of the Women's Guild was a great success. The guildswomen were formally welcomed to the home—of which they were the pioneers and for which they had provided,

directly or indirectly, almost the whole of the purchase money—by Mrs. Hunter, who was present in a dual capacity, as a member of the homes committee and as secretary of the central council of the guild.

Mrs. Buchan and Mrs. Tulloch also spoke, and at a later stage Mrs. Duffas made a presentation to the home on behalf of the Cowlairs Guild.

CONFERENCES WITH SECTIONS.

A conference with the sectional committees was held in the Union Halls, West Nile Street, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 16th September, at 2 p.m. The agenda of business contained the following items:—President's address, welcome to the two new sections, sectional reports, suggestions for the winter's work, a recommendation by the central council that Mr. Alfred O'Neil's paper on "The Conservation of Womanhood and Childhood" be read and discussed in all the branches, discussion of the National War Emergency Fund, consideration of the visitation of the branches, and general business.

The central council and the presidents and secretaries of the sections met in conference in the Guild Room of the St. Mungo Halls on Saturday, 6th February, 1915. The agenda contained the following:—President's address, sectional reports, consideration of the relationships of the branches, the sections, and the central council, suggestions for future work, and general business.

FORMATION OF NEW SECTIONS.

Section VI. was formed at Kilmarnock, under the auspices of Kilmarnock Society, on Saturday, 29th August, 1914. Section VII. was formed at Alloa, under the auspices of Alloa Society, on Saturday, 5th September. Mrs. Tulloch (president of the guild) presided at the formation of both sections.

REMARKS ON PROGRESS.

We congratulate Kilbowie Hill Branch (Clydebank) on being the premier branch in Scotland, with a membership of 266, and we are very pleased to add to our number the following new branches, viz.:—Paisley East End, Gilbertfield, Possilpark, Stonehouse, Blantyre, Pumpherston, and Monifieth. The number of branches now stands at 182, with a combined membership of 13,603, a decrease of 865.

The central council tender their grateful thanks to the Co-operative Union, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, the United Co-operative Baking Society, the *Scottish Co-operator*, the Laundry Association, and the Hamilton Baking Society for their grants; the United Co-operative Baking Society for entertaining the delegates at the sectional and central council conferences; the Kinning Park Society's board and educational committee for entertaining the delegates at the annual meeting; the Scottish Section and Kinning Park Society for the use of rooms for Speakers' class and council meetings; and to St. Cuthbert's, Kilmarnock, Motherwell, Paisley, Alloa, and Kirkcaldy for the use of rooms for Speakers' classes.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD BALANCE SHEET, 1914-15.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, as per last Report . . .	61	4	8	By Audit Expenses	1	7	4
" Shares from Balance Sheet, 1912 .	4	2	4	" Grants to Sections	30	0	0
" Grant from Co-operative Union .	150	0	0	" Ten Conference Subscriptions . .	1	5	0
" " S.C.W.S. Ltd.	15	0	0	" Line for Convalescent Home . .	1	5	0
" " U.C.B.S. Ltd.	10	0	0	" Secretary's Salary	13	15	0
" Scottish Co-operator Newspaper .	2	2	0	" Treasurer's Salary	6	10	0
" Co-operative Laundry Association .	1	10	0	" President's Salary	1	10	0
" Hamilton Baking Society	1	0	0	" Central Council's Expenses and			
" Branch Fees from last year . . .	1	10	0	Delegations	60	8	4
" Badges	18	16	0	" Conferences with Sections . . .	9	6	6
" Song Books	0	19	5	" Special Meetings forming Two			
" Printing (Section I.)	2	19	6	New Sections	3	9	11
" " (Section II.)	5	17	11	" Printing	81	7	5
" " (Section III.)	4	7	1	" Postage—Secretary	8	17	0
" " (Section IV.)	1	8	7	" " Treasurer	0	5	0
" Repaid Holiday Association Shares	5	0	0	" Honorarium to Secretary . . .	5	0	0
" Branch Subscriptions	54	1	9	" Badges	24	7	8
" Bank Interest	0	18	0	" Two Delegates, Dublin Congress	9	0	0
" Interest—Co-operator Newspaper .	0	1	0	" " E. W. G. "	7	4	0
" Surplus from Excursion	0	15	6	" Rules Committee	4	14	6
" " " Speakers' Class	0	1	0	" Subscription to Veterans Associa-			
				tion	1	1	0
				" Subscription to National Vigil-			
				ance Association	0	5	0
				" Subscription to Women's Suffrage.	0	5	0
				" " Labour Emergency			
				Committee	0	5	0
				" Subscription to Ambulance Centre	0	5	0
				" Literature from E.W.C. Guild . .	0	10	0
				" Delegate to Veterans' Association			
				Meetings	0	10	2
				" Hall Rent—Speakers' Class . . .	1	4	0
				" War Emergency Committee . . .	0	2	0
				" Gratuities	1	7	6
				" Sundries	0	8	0
				" Shares—			
				Co-operative Convales-			
				cent Homes Ltd . . . £3	0	0	0
				Co-operative Newspaper			
				Society Ltd.	1	4	4
				" Cash in Bank	50	18	9
				" Cash on hand	10	11	4
					<hr/>		
						65	14 5

Audited—
HELEN CRIGHTON.
JAMES TRAINER.

£341 9 9

£341 9 9

M. HUNTER, General Secretary.

III.—IRELAND.

The executive of the Irish Co-operative Women's Guild have much pleasure in submitting for your approval the annual report and balance sheet for year ending 31st March, 1915.

The outstanding event of the year was the Dublin Congress, at which the Irish guilds were well represented, and which afforded opportunities for interchange of ideas and discussion on how best to further the guild movement in Ireland. The guild stall at the exhibition was the rendezvous of guild delegates from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and we are in no small measure indebted to our friends across the Channel for the interest

they evinced in our work here and the help they were able to give us. On the afternoon of the closing day of Congress an interesting and important gathering of guildswomen was held under the auspices of the Irish Guild. Representatives from English and Scottish guilds supported Mrs. Husband (president of Irish executive) on the platform, and in the audience were several prominent men and women connected with various auxiliary organisations. The speeches from start to finish were inspiring, and breathed the enthusiasm and idealism which permeated Dublin Congress. The executive are of opinion that the increased activity of the past session is largely due to the influence of the first Congress held on Irish soil. There has been a willingness on the part of guildswomen to shoulder new responsibilities, to invade new fields of service, and we may at least claim to be making an effort to "Stretch the octave 'twixt the dream and deed."

The seventh annual meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, Frederick Street, Belfast, on the 27th June, 1914, at 3 o'clock. Mr. W. J. McGuffin (president of the Belfast Society) opened the proceedings with an address of welcome, in which he congratulated the Irish Guild on the work done, and expressed the hope that our organisation would in the future continue to conduce to the welfare and prosperity of the co-operative movement in Ireland.

Mrs. Husband, in her presidential address, thanked Mr. McGuffin for the cordial welcome extended on behalf of the Belfast Society, and welcomed the delegates and visitors from the various centres throughout Ireland. In an interesting review of the past year, she urged guildswomen to increased effort and loyalty in the coming session.

The routine business of the annual meeting disclosed the fact that good, steady progress had been made. Many items of interest were discussed, and suggestions made for new methods of guild activity. It was decided that in Belfast combined meetings of the various branches should be held quarterly.

Miss Agnes Dorrans (late secretary, Central Branch, Belfast) read a paper on "Mistakes: Humorous and Otherwise," which was of high literary merit, and around which an interesting discussion on our present educational systems centred. Representatives from management and educational committees expressed the view that the education question was one the Women's Guild in Ireland should take a deep interest in.

The delegates and friends were hospitably entertained to tea by the Belfast Society, and this was acknowledged by a vote of thanks, proposed by Miss Dornan (Lisburn) and seconded by Mrs. Campbell (Belfast).

Our winter session began in October last, and the membership has been well maintained, about 500 members being enrolled during the year. This, however, is by no means the height of our ambition so far as membership is concerned, and the executive aim at the establishment of a branch of the women's guild in every part of Ireland where the co-operative movement has taken root. Difficulties of distance prevent the frequent visitation of

outlying districts, but we are pushing steadily on, and believe that, with patience and perseverance, we shall "get there" all right.

In the month of October last, Mrs. Husband and Mrs. Moore paid a visit to the various branches of the guild in the South of Ireland, and they report very satisfactory progress. Two new branches were opened—one in Dublin (the capital now having two branches) and one in Cork. Queenstown and Rosslare Harbour branches were also visited, and according to recent reports the southern branches are forging ahead. In Dublin the guild is doing good work, and the executive are informed that there is a desire to establish another branch in that city.

The first combined meeting of the Belfast guilds was held in October, 1914, and, naturally, the proceedings were affected to some extent by the fact that we are at present involved in the greatest war of modern times. An address on "Women, War, and Co-operation," covering a wide field and dealing with the many problems confronting guildswomen at this time of crisis, was given by Mrs. McCoubrey, followed by an interesting discussion, arising out of which it was decided that the Belfast branches, in view of the prevailing distress in our city at the present time, arrange to send a deputation to the Corporation, urging that something be done to put into operation the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, recently made applicable to Ireland. Since then a large deputation of guildswomen attended at the City Council and laid their views on the question before the Lord Mayor and Councillors. So far, the Act has not been put into operation in Belfast. The executive recommend that this question, coupled with the problems of our educational system, and the present lack of school accommodation, be subjects of consideration in guild branches. Mrs. Richardson (Belfast) prepared a paper dealing with the question, which has already been read in several centres.

Lisburn and Ballymena branches report good progress, and the branch at Newtownards has been resuscitated. Under the fostering care of the executive, we believe it will grow into a sturdy and strong auxiliary of the Newtownards Co-operative Society.

The majority of the branches have played some part in the public services demanded of everyone at the present time. Contributions have been made to the Belgian Relief Fund and the Prince of Wales Fund, and many parcels of "comforts" have been despatched from Irish guildswomen to our soldiers and sailors. Special mention should perhaps be made in this connection of Lisburn Branch, and Ballymena has also contributed largely to the supply of socks and mufflers. Several consignments have been sent from Belfast, and a number of our members are serving on relief committees.

An effort has been made by the executive to stimulate interest in the official organs of the co-operative movement, and we are doing all we can to increase, through our agency, the circulation of the *Co-operative News*, the *Circle*, and the *Millgate Monthly* in Ireland.

Under the auspices of one of the Belfast branches a Young People's

Circle has been formed and is proving very successful indeed. A study of "Our Story" is proceeding, and the Belfast Educational Committee are granting several prizes for the best essay on same at the close of the session. We feel that this work will go far to train a race of co-operators understanding the principles underlying the movement and well able to give a reason for the hope that is in them.

Guildswomen in Ireland are taking an increasing interest in the affairs of their societies, as shown by the numbers attending and taking part in the quarterly meetings. In the country town of Ballymena women have had representation on the board of management for some considerable time, and during the past year a guild official was elected to serve on the Belfast Management Committee. Now that the principle of equality has been put into practice in Belfast, the executive hope that guildswomen will maintain the position they have gained and increase their representation on the board. Guildswomen are also doing good work on our educational committees.

In conclusion, we desire to thank the Co-operative Union for the increased grant allowed us this year. Our geographical conditions add considerably to the expenses of our propaganda, and the executive feel that, with additional facilities, larger enterprise could be undertaken. We are also indebted to Belfast and Lisburn societies and to the United Co-operative Baking Society for grants made.

Financial statement for year to 31st March, 1915.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance		21	16	0	By Executive Meetings		9	0	8
„ Grant—Co-operative Union.....		3	0	0	„ Annual Meeting		1	3	0
„ „ Belfast Society		4	4	0	„ Expenses visiting Branches, Dublin Congress, &c.....		19	1	3
„ „ U.C.B.S.		2	2	0	„ Irish Co-operative Conference Association		3	19	0
„ „ Lisburn Society		1	0	0	„ Printing		5	2	11
„ Affiliation Fees.....		4	0	0	„ Secretary's Salary		2	0	0
„ Interest		0	8	9	„ Postage and Sundries.....		2	3	7
					„ Ambulance Class—Amount Trans- ferred		5	0	0
Audited—					„ Balance—Belfast Society		14	19	7
Wm. M. Knox.					„ „ in Treasurer's hands ..		0	19	3
		£63	9	3			£63	9	3

MARGARET T. McCoubrey, General Secretary

IX.—THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

(See Report 50, page 165.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FOR 1913 AND 1914

Country.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1914.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1913.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Argentina	0 12 0	1 4 0
Austria.....	180 0 0	183 4 0
Hungary	62 11 0	62 12 0
Belgium .....	....	31 15 0
Bulgaria	0 12 0	....
Canada.....	1 4 0	0 12 0
Cyprus	1 0 0	1 0 0
Denmark.....	28 1 0	28 15 0
France.....	5 12 0	87 12 0
Germany.....	302 19 0	304 12 0
India	15 0 0	12 0 0
Italy.....	20 16 0	19 10 0
Japan .....	....	0 12 0
Netherlands	28 15 0	31 13 0
Norway	14 16 0	14 16 0
Roumania	9 8 0	7 7 0
Russia	14 4 0	24 8 0
Finland	33 10 0	34 16 0
Servia	10 0 0	10 0 0
Spain	6 4 0	1 4 0
Sweden	30 0 0	30 0 0
Switzerland.....	93 6 0	89 6 0
United Kingdom	670 14 0	669 0 0
United States.....	0 6 0	3 9 0
Total.....	1529 10 0	1649 7 0

BALANCE SHEET FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1914.

CASH ACCOUNT.

275

BANKING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank, 1st January, 1914	1219	18	3	By Withdrawals, 31st December, 1914	1810	15	7
" Cash Deposits, 31st December, 1914	1996	15	7	" Bank Commission and Charges	2	9	6
" Interest on Deposits :—				" Balance in Bank—Current A/c ..	£101	15	5
London County and Westminster				" Balance in Bank :—			
Bank	£1	19	0	Deposit Account—			
Co-operative Wholesale Society..	27	7	2	Co-operative Wholesale Soc.	1334	17	7
Current Account—C.W.S.	3	18	1		—	—	—
	33	4	3		1436	13	0
	<u>£3249 18 1</u>				<u>£3249 18 1</u>		

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Accounts owing :—				By Office Furniture—Estimated	30	0	0
Rent, Lighting, and Cleaning..	35	0	10	" Sale of Publications through Messrs.			
Printing and Translation of				King and Son	8	14	0
<i>Bulletin</i>	8	0	10	" Cash in Bank	£1436	13	0
	43	1	8	" "	10	0	0
" Balance—Alien Relief Fund	0	10	0		—	—	—
" Balance of Assets over Liabilities	1441	15	4		1446	13	0
	<u>£1485 7 0</u>				<u>£1485 7 0</u>		

I have carefully examined the Books and Accounts of the International Co-operative Alliance for the year ending 31st December, 1914, and hereby certify the above statement as correct.

13th April, 1915.

N. H. COOPER,
PUBLIC AUDITOR.

Reports of the Sections and District Associations.

(1) IRELAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED, IN IRELAND, AND OF THE IRISH CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

Ten ordinary and two special meetings have been held during the Congress year, at which the attendances of the various members of the Board have been as here stated, viz. :—

	Present.	Absent.
Mr. H. Archer	7	5
Mr. H. Barbour	8	4
Mr. W. Gray	10	2
Mr. W. G. Kane	11	1
Mr. W. J. McGuffin	11	1
Mr. J. Palmer	10	2
Mr. R. Fleming	12	0

Appointments as follows were made at the meeting held in Dublin on 3rd June, 1914, viz. :—

<i>Chairman</i>	Mr. J. Palmer.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. H. Archer.
<i>Secretary</i>	Mr. R. Fleming.
<i>Editor of "Wheatsheaf" (Irish issue)</i>	Mr. W. G. Kane.
<i>Representatives on Central Board</i> —	

Messrs. H. Barbour and J. Palmer.

<i>Representative on United Board</i>	Mr. R. Fleming.
<i>Central Education Committee</i>	Mr. H. Archer.

At the annual meeting of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, held in Dublin on 4th December, 1914, the section was represented by Messrs. Palmer and Fleming. Messrs. McGuffin and Fleming attended at Dublin on 3rd March, 1915, a joint conference with representatives of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society to consider the question of "additional capital for local societies."

Mr. Archer has represented the Executive on the Dublin Vigilance Committee, formed last September, with headquarters at The Plunkett House, to watch the rise of prices and the supply of foodstuffs.

Monthly reports have been regularly submitted by the secretary of the

propaganda, audit, and other work carried on by him. Eight societies have been registered since last Congress, viz., Irish Co-operative Builders (Dublin), South County Dublin (Dean's Grange), Moycullen (Co. Galway), Renvyle (Connemara), Millbrook (Co. Antrim), Sligo, Ulster (Belfast), and South City (Dublin). The first-named is a productive society; its objects are to undertake building and constructional work. The immediate occasion of its establishment was the unemployment which followed the Dublin strikes of the autumn and winter, 1913-14. Difficulty has been experienced in raising the necessary capital. One good and a few minor contracts have been secured. Prospects are good, but it would be premature to offer any definite opinion as to the future. The Renvyle Society is situate on a peninsula of that name in the west of Connemara. Owing to the poverty of the district and the sparseness of population the situation is a most difficult one, and it will be some time before effective work can be done. The members are partly fishermen and partly farmers, and, in addition to supplying everything necessary for household and business, the society will engage in marketing their produce. The society at Millbrook has been formed by the members of Larne Society residing at the village, who unanimously decided to secede from the parent organisation and to form a separate society. The Executive did not favour this policy of segregation and deputed two members to attend at Millbrook to discuss matters. The village of Millbrook is situate two miles from Larne, and it is not anticipated that any overlapping difficulty will arise. The society has issued its first balance sheet, which discloses a satisfactory state of affairs. The South County (Dublin) Society has had a rather adverse beginning. Contrary to advice, business was begun prior to registration, and before there was a sufficient membership to justify a start being made, as a consequence the result of seven months' trading operations was a deficit balance of £25. As the formation of the two last-named societies—the Ulster (Belfast) and South City (Dublin)—involved overlapping and competition with already established societies every effort was made to induce the promoters to abandon the idea. The former society has adopted the copyright rules of the Union, permission to use which was granted after a full consideration of all the aspects of the case, as the adoption of these rules involve affiliation with the Union. It is thereby hoped to exercise an advisory supervision over the affairs of the society and thus lessen the likelihood of serious friction arising. The Dublin Society has been registered under a code of rules drafted by a local solicitor. Both societies have already commenced business.

The annual Congress held in Dublin during Whit-week (1914) aroused a great deal of interest in matters co-operative, especially in the midland and southern counties. Many inquiries were received and attended to. The outbreak of war, however, with its consequent excitement, has produced a temporary lull in the work. The Educational Committee of the Dublin Society has carried on a vigorous propaganda during the winter. A series of public meetings has been held, at which Messrs. Palmer, Archer, Fleming, and others delivered addresses.

In connection with the audit work, the secretary has paid regular visits to all newly-established societies and consulted with the officials as to business methods, matters of administration, &c. Interviews have been held with those interested in the formation of societies at Naas (Co. Kildare), Ballagh (Co. Tipperary), Kilfree (Co. Roscommon), Tourmakeady (Co. Mayo), Boherbue (Co. Cork), Lisbellaw and Belleek (Co. Fermanagh), Kinlough (Co. Donegal), Castlecomer (Co. Kilkenny), and Westport. At the two last-named places matters are promising. At Westport those interested are mainly railway employés. At Castlecomer a number of anthracite coal pits give employment to a few hundred miners. At a successful propaganda meeting held there a provisional committee was appointed to carry on the work of organisation. Visits have been paid to a number of agricultural societies which either have opened or propose to open distributive departments, and also to some societies non-members of the Union, with a view to securing their affiliation.

The secretary, in the capacity of a Public Auditor under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, has conducted audits of the following societies' accounts, the fees for which will be credited to the funds of the Union, viz. :—Armagh District, Ballymena and Harryville, City of Cork, Coalisland, Dublin Industrial, Dublin University, Dundalk, Drumaness, Enniskillen, Greenore, Larne, Lucan, Middletown, Millbrook, Newtownards, Ochilmore, Queenstown, and Rosslare Harbour.

Public and society meetings have been addressed by members of the Executive at the following places, viz. :—Belfast, Blackrock, Cork, Dublin, Enniskillen, Middletown, Moycullen, Newtownards, Portadown, Ringsend, Rosslare, Sligo, and Westport.

Subjoined is a statement of expenses charged to the Union during 1914 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand	10	0	0	By Meetings of Executive	30	15	10
„ Cash from Central Office.....	123	12	2	„ Conferences and Deputations....	24	9	5
				„ Congress and Reception Com- mittee Meetings	67	0	7
				„ General Printing	1	3	10
				„ Hire of Rooms	0	2	6
				„ Balance in hand	10	0	0
	£133	12	2		£133	12	2

THE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

Owing to the increase in the number of societies and the great distances by which in some cases they are separated, district conferences only are held during the spring and autumn. A joint conference is held during the summer at some convenient centre. Proposals were submitted during the year for the formation of separate associations for the Northern and Southern districts, but as the time for such a step was not considered opportune consideration of the matter was adjourned *sine die*.

The joint annual conference was held at Dublin on 6th June (the closing day of the Congress Exhibition). In addition to a record attendance of delegates and visitors from all parts of Ireland, the conference was favoured

with the presence of a large number of cross-channel visitors. A paper on "The Ethics of Co-operation" was read by Mr. A. J. Connor (Dublin).

Southern conferences were held at Cork on 12th September, 1914, and at Dublin on 6th February, 1915. At the former, the circular issued by the Union on the "International Crisis" was discussed; at the latter, the question of "Co-operation with other Forces" was considered and a vote taken on the resolution as submitted by the Union.

In the Northern district conferences were held at Belfast on 24th October, 1914, and at Newtownards on 27th February, 1915. At the Belfast conference a discussion was introduced by Mr. D. R. Campbell (Belfast Trades Council) on "How may Co-operation be made of more Practical Utility to the Poorest of the Population?" At Newtownards the statement prepared and issued by the Union on "Co-operation with other Forces" was read and considered, and the resolutions therein were voted upon.

The annual conference of managers, secretaries, &c., was held in Belfast on 24th February, 1915. A paper, illustrated by lantern views, was read by Mr. H. Barbour on "The Value of Charts and Diagrams in showing the Position and Progress of a Co-operative Society." A resolution was passed recommending the issue of the paper as a pamphlet.

It is satisfactory to report, in view of the financial crisis, that the societies generally have had a prosperous year. Many have had records in turnover, and almost all have shown substantial increases. It has to be remembered, of course, that increase in money value of trade during 1914 is to a large extent accounted for by the high prices obtaining during the last few months of the year.

The Executive issued in January to members of affiliated societies a circular urging the need for preparedness in view of the commercial and industrial location which may be expected to follow the cessation of the present world conflict. The enormous expense involved—not less than £650,000,000 per month—was referred to, and it was pointed out that the deviation of so much wealth from the usual channels of trade and commerce, and its devotion to unproductive purposes, must induce a severe reaction in the general interruption of business, lack of employment, reduction in wages, and highly increased cost of living.

It is with deep regret that the deceases have to be recorded of Messrs. Joseph McCarragher and James Binks. Mr. McCarragher was one of the founders and the first president of the Armagh Society, and for a number of years was an earnest and highly-respected member of the Executive. Mr. Binks was one of the original members of the Portadown Society, and served on the committee from the inception of the society until death suddenly cut short his activities. To the widows and families of both gentlemen the sympathies of Irish co-operators are cordially extended.

The thanks of the association are hereby tendered to the societies at the places named for the hospitable arrangements made for the holding of the

conferences, and to the United Co-operative Baking Society and the Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society for their contributions to the funds.

The following is the cash statement for 1914 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions :—				By Conferences :—			
Armagh	2	14	3	Belfast (Northern)	5	0	4
Ballymena	3	7	10	Lisburn „	5	13	6
Belfast	52	5	10	Cork (Southern)	7	15	3
City of Cork	5	2	9	Dublin (Joint Annual)	46	7	11
Coalisland	0	15	0	Belfast (Managers')	3	12	11
Dundalk	2	10	0	„ Audit Fees :—			
Dublin	5	0	0	Remitted to Co-op. Union	73	0	0
Drumaness	0	19	1	„ Special Propaganda	1	0	0
Enniskillen	1	13	0	„ Travelling	8	13	1
Larne	1	6	10	„ Postages	4	18	1
Lisburn	9	5	5	„ Printing	5	9	2
Lucan	1	6	8	„ Books and Office Requirements..	7	15	7
Middletown	1	4	0	„ <i>Wheatsheaf</i>	8	10	0
Newtownards	0	18	7				
Portadown	2	13	4				
Queenstown	2	12	10				
Rosslare	0	9	10				
A U.C.E. (Belfast Branch)	4	11	5				
I.C. Women's Guild	1	17	4				
U.C.B. Society	3	0	0				
U.C.B.S (Bonus Society)	0	10	0				
„ Sale of Books	2	15	7				
„ Expenses Refunded	0	11	10				
„ Audit Fees Received	73	0	0				
Total Income	180	11	5	Total Expenditure	177	15	10
„ Cash in hand 31st Dec, 1913	14	9	11	„ Cash in hand 31st Dec., 1914	17	5	6
	£195	1	4		£195	1	4

Audited—
JOHN B TAYLOR.

J. PALMER, Chairman.

R. FLEMING, Secretary.

(2) MIDLAND SECTION.

The attendances of the members of the Board have been as below :—

	Present.	Absent.	Possible.
Mr. G. Bastard.....	10	1	11
Mr. J. Butcher.....	10	*1 ..	11
Mr. S. Butler	11	—	11
Mr. W. J. Douse	11	—	11
Mr. G. Harris	11	—	11
Mr. J. Langley.....	10	1	11
Mr. W. Millerchip	11	—	11
Mr. J. Millington	10	1	11
Mr. F. Rankin.....	11	—	11
Mr. C. A. W. Saxton	11	—	11
Mr. J. G. Shacklock.....	11	—	11

* Sick.

Honorary Members.

Mr. E. L. Griffiths. Mr. D. McInnes. Mr. S. Redfern.
Mr. W. W. Smith. Mr. G. Woodhouse.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting, held at Leamington, on 6th June, 1914 :—

Chairman : Mr. W. Millerchip.

Treasurer : Mr. W. J. Douse. *Secretary :* Mr. Chas. A. W. Saxton.

Representatives—

On the United Board..... Messrs. Douse and Harris.
„ Educational Committee Mr. Langley.
„ Joint Propaganda Committee Mr. Millerchip.
For Production and matters relating thereto Mr. Millington.
On Sectional Choral Association Committee Mr. Rankin.
„ Educational Association Committee..... Mr. Saxton.
„ Exhibitions & Demonstrations Com. Mr. J. G. Shacklock.
On Notts. District Arbitration Committee..... Mr. G. Bastard.

We have much pleasure in submitting for your approval the report of the various phases of our work for the past year.

Prior to the outbreak of war we had every reason to believe that the movement would make rapid progress during 1914, reports coming to hand

from various parts of the section showing increased trade and membership.

On the declaration of war we had some misgivings as to the effect it would have on the trade of societies; but owing to the policy advocated by the Co-operative Union at the outset, being generally adopted, particularly with regard to keeping down prices as low as possible, instead of there being a decrease or set-back to trade and membership, nearly every society has shown abnormal increases—men and women who have hitherto been opposed to or held aloof from our movement almost entreated committees to admit them to membership.

After the rush of the first few weeks, when the existing members' interests had to be the first consideration, the new converts were admitted, one society enrolling as many as 700 in a single week, and we hope every endeavour will be made by general and educational committees to educate these new adherents in the principles of the movement to which the exigency of the war has forced them to become attached.

A glance at the statistics at the end of the report will give an idea of the progress made when compared with the previous year.

PROPAGANDA.

In accordance with the decision of the United Board, a committee has been appointed, consisting of the district secretaries and four representatives from the Sectional Board, to supervise the propaganda work of the section.

Meetings are held quarterly, and arrangements made for the services of an agent in the various districts as required.

Mr. E. L. Griffiths, the joint propagandist agent, has paid visits to the Wednesbury, Melton Mowbray, Lowdham, Market Harborough, Oundle, Malvern, West Bromwich, Ludlow, Wem, Minsterley, Wellington, Bridgnorth, and other places, with good results to the several societies concerned.

OVERLAPPING AND AMALGAMATION.

Efforts have been made, with partial success, to arrange boundaries or bring about amalgamation, and thus avoid overlapping.

It is pleasing to report that Ripley and Lea and Holloway societies have agreed to boundaries, and that Malvern Society is being taken over and worked as a branch of the Worcester Society.

A determined effort was made, jointly with the North-Western Section, to bring about an amalgamation with the following four societies, viz.:—Chesterfield, Pilsley, Hasland, and Clay Cross, but so far without success, although we anticipate that the object desired will be accomplished as far as Chesterfield and Clay Cross are concerned.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

The provisional committee having the administration of this fund gave their report at the first annual meeting at Leicester on 13th February, 1915. Sixty-four societies are now members of the fund, including several of the largest in the section. Including the £1,000 donation from the Co-operative

Wholesale Society, the subscriptions and donations amounted to £1,681. 1s. 11d. Convalescents or their friends contributed £27. 8s.

The fund was opened on 1st May, 1914, and from that date to 31st December, 138 co-operators had received grants amounting to £248. 15s. 6d., which enabled them to enter convalescent homes in various parts of the country. With two exceptions, all returned home much the better for the rest and change. The committee have received many letters from grateful patients testifying to the benefits they have received.

In concluding their report, the committee express the hope that its publication will lead all societies in the section not yet members to become affiliated, and propose interviewing committees with that end in view.

CONFERENCES.

Six sectional conferences have been held during the year.

Following the usual policy of the Board, with the view of giving all societies in the section an opportunity of sending delegates, three conferences were arranged for on the same day, viz., at Nottingham, Lincoln, and Coventry, on 18th July, 1914. The paper was prepared by Mr. D. McInnes, at the request of the Sectional Choral Association, who had appealed to the Board for assistance in advocating their claims on the movement, and was entitled "Co-operative Education and the Sectional Choral Association." Mr. McInnes read the paper at Lincoln, Mr. Douse at Nottingham, and Mr. Rankin at Coventry.

The second series of three conferences took place at Peterborough, Ripley, and Walsall, on 20th February, 1915, when the subject for discussion was Mr. G. Goodenough's paper, "The Central Board and the Grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild," the paper being read by Messrs. Millington, Douse, and Bastard respectively. A lively discussion took place at each conference, many visitors being present from women's guild branches. The reader of paper in each instance moved the following resolution:—

That a body such as the Women's Guild is not entitled to speak in the name of the whole movement on a question such as divorce, in which acute differences of opinion have arisen, and which question contravenes the terms of neutrality hitherto observed by the co-operative movement.

The voting over the conferences was as follows:—For the resolution, 74; against, 47; the resolution being carried at Peterborough and Ripley and lost at Walsall.

RESUSCITATION OF SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The question of resuscitating the old Shropshire and Mid-Wales District Association has been considered during the past year. A joint committee, consisting of representatives from the North-Western and Midland sections, after calling a conference and circularising societies concerned, carefully considered the advisability of re-establishing this association, and ultimately

decided to ask the United Board to receive a deputation with a view to their asking Congress to assent to its resuscitation, the same to be under the supervision of the Midland Section.

In concluding our report, we wish to pay tribute to the valuable work done by the district associations, educational committees' association, and the women's and men's guilds.

W. MILLERCHIP, Chairman.

CHAS. A. W. SAXTON, Secretary.

CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

At the end of another year we may congratulate ourselves on carrying out successfully our musical campaign. The association provides a fine field for the activities of progressive choirs and soloists. We are not only educating the competitors, but we are educating the public as well.

In order to increase the interest of co-operators in the Choral Association and to extend its work, the Midland Sectional Board arranged three sectional conferences for Saturday, 17th July, at Lincoln, Coventry, and Nottingham, when a paper prepared by Mr. D. McInnes was read. We are glad to say they were the means of drawing greater attention to the work of the Choral Association.

We had a very successful Junior Festival at Annesley Woodhouse on 25th April, the adjudicator being Mr. T. Maskell Hardy (London). We had six choirs in Class I., being two more than the previous year. The entries in the other classes were well up to the average, the numbers being—Girls under sixteen years, sixteen entries; under thirteen years, twenty-one entries; boys under sixteen, twelve; duet competition, six.

The Senior Festival was highly successful, and was held at Mansfield on 10th October, under the adjudication of Mr. Arthur T. Akeroyd (Ilkley, Yorks.) The competition, as in previous years, commenced at 11 a.m. Nine choirs competed in the chief choral class, Leicester choir carrying off the challenge shield, with 177 points (maximum 200). The following were the entries in the other classes:—Sopranos, sixteen; contraltos, eight; tenors, five; basses, twelve.

The annual meeting of the association was held at Long Eaton, and the committee have held meetings during the year at Southwell, Long Eaton, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Northampton. The balance sheet shows that after a highly satisfactory year's working there is a balance in hand of £6.

We deeply regret that the suggestion to hold a choral competition on the Saturday previous to Congress was not acceded to, but we thank the Midland Sectional Board for the support they gave the association in the matter, for on looking through the reports of the three sectional conferences we find there was a very strongly expressed opinion that it would add to the interest of the Annual Congress if this course could have been adopted.

CHARLES MARSHALL, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTHAMPTON AND EARLS BARTON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Rogers (chairman), Northampton.	Mr. J. G. Frisby, Long Buckby.
„ G. T. James (secretary), Moulton.	„ J. C. Cooper, Earls Barton.
„ C. Richardson, Northampton.	„ W. Mellows, Harpole.
„ A. C. Minney, Yardley Hastings.	„ Barnes, Daventry.

During the past year the association has to report progress of the societies in the district.

Three conferences have been held and four executive meetings.

The executive lost the services of Mr. Josiah Packer (Long Buckby), who has resigned; for many years he has done valuable service for the association.

The Co-operative Wholesale Depôt shows an increase of £73,976, or 12·6 per cent in sales, in the grocery department. The depôt is forging ahead in every department under the management of Messrs. Baker and Pearson, and the audit department under Mr. W. Kay.

The Long Buckby Society's hair-dressing business has not been the success as was anticipated. The confectionery department, opened in 1913, has been a great success, sales having risen to £21 per week. The society has purchased 96½ acres of grazing land for the sum of £4,300, and has shown increases on sales during the year.

The Earls Barton Society shows a profit on their farming account of £45. 6s. 4d.

The Managers' Association still holds meetings, but the war has overshadowed somewhat the regular method of holding meetings.

The carrying of the principles of co-operation into the Towcester district is not lost sight of by the Northampton Society or this association.

The Northampton Society is making rapid strides, and is building large extensions on the site adjoining its present drapery department, in Abington Street, as mentioned in our last report, and, when completed, will contain the registered offices of the society.

The conferences were held at Daventry, Long Buckby, and Northampton, and were well attended.

The members of the executive have spoken at meetings and visited societies during the year.

The Midland Choral Association and the Sectional Boards Sub-propaganda Committee have held their meetings at Northampton during the year.

The societies in the district have coped splendidly with their members during the war crisis.

Our thanks are due to the manager (Mr. W. Metcalf) and Mr. A. H. Hornsey (secretary) of the Northampton Society for the arrangements for rooms for our executive meetings and the society for their use.

The village societies are holding their own, and the amalgamation of some of the smaller ones may take place in the near future with larger neighbouring societies.

The society at Yardley Hastings is erecting a new bakery and two cottages at a cost of £1,100, and is commencing the bakery business when the same are completed.

The Brington Society has become a member of the Union and the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

We have been able to assist the small-holders in more ways than one, and could do far better if they would send representatives to our meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Grant from Co-operative Union..	6	15	4	By Balance due to Treasurer 31st Dec.,			
„ Subscriptions from Societies	5	5	0	1913	0	0	6
„ Cash due to Treasurer, 31st Dec.,				„ Attendances—Executive Meetings	2	2	5
1913	0	0	6	„ „ District Conferences..	4	12	0
				„ General Printing and Stationery .	0	17	3
Audited—				„ Postages, &c.....	0	4	1
GEORGE FAULKNER.				„ Delegate to Congress	4	0	0
				„ Balance in hand of Treasurer			
				31st Dec., 1914	0	4	7
	£12	0	10				
					£12	0	10

G. T. JAMES, Secretary.

NO. 2.—KETTERING AND WELLINGBOROUGH.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Hornsby (president), Rushden.	Mr. C. Stokes, Burton Latimer.
„ A. J. Foulds (secretary), Kettering.	„ C. Groom, Raunds.
„ T. Panther, Kettering.	„ C. Coe, Rothwell.
„ G. Marlow, Desborough.	„ H. Clayson, Wellingborough.

In submitting the report of the district for the past year, we have every reason to believe that, on the whole, good progress has been made.

Owing to the terrible war in which we are engaged, the latter half of the year has been one of great anxiety to many of the societies on account of the increased cost of many of the commodities required by our members, and the desire on the part of management committees to keep down retail prices as low as possible, consistent with sound business, has made it difficult in some cases to realise the same margin of profits as on former occasions. It is difficult to realise what the workers of this country owe to the co-operative movement during the present crisis. What the prices of the necessities of life would have been without the steadying influence of co-operation it is difficult to comprehend. We can only hope that out of this chaos and confusion there may be evolved a brighter era wherein the principles of the movement may yet find a wider sphere of influence in our national life. This will at least compensate to some extent for the sacrifices the workers of this country have been called upon to make.

We have held three executive meetings and four conferences during the year.

The first conference was a united one with the Northampton and Earls Barton District, and was held in the Wesleyan Schools, Kettering, on Saturday, 21st February, 1914. Mr. W. Ballard (secretary, Kettering Industrial Society) opened a discussion on "The Circular issued by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés."

The second was held under the auspices of the Walgrave Society. This was the first time a co-operative conference had been held in the village. The business included the alteration of the method of nomination and election of district officers; also a paper by Mr. C. Stokes (Burton Latimer), subject: "The Village Store: Its Place in the Movement."

The third was held at Finedon on Saturday, 22nd August, when Mr. G. Harris (Lincoln) opened a discussion on "Co-operative Policy during the War."

The fourth was held at Thrapstone on Saturday, 14th November, at 3 o'clock, in the new Co-operative Hall, when a very interesting and instructive paper was read by Mr. Amey (secretary, Finedon Society), subject: "A Plea for Earlier Co-operative Education."

All the conferences have been well attended, and the keen interest taken in the subjects discussed should be productive of much good.

It is very gratifying to record the good results attending the efforts of the Peterborough Society at Oundle.

The supply by van has given place to the purchase of property which has been converted into suitable business premises; these were opened in November, and from the latest information, we find that a trade of over £100 per week is being done. We desire to record our thanks to the friends at Peterborough for the splendid effort they have made to revive the spirit of co-operation in the Oundle District.

Among the distributive societies that have had a successful time during the year, Kettering shows an increase of £14,000 over 1913. The total sales for the year have reached £185,000. Midland Society (Wellingborough) shows an increase of £5,000 on the half year, and Rushden £7,000 on the same period, while Rothwell shows £1,500 increase on the year. Thrapstone is still making good progress in its new premises, which were opened for business in August; cost of the building was £1,200. Desborough Society shows a profit of £310 on the farm account, while the quarry and clay pit show satisfactory results.

Productive societies are having a good time. The Havelock Boot shows a trade of £35,751 for the half year, and a profit of £1,805. The Union Boot Society has had a successful half year, and we congratulate it upon the success which has attended its efforts.

These are some of the indications we have of the progress made during the past year. Our hope and desire is that they may still continue.

urged upon societies the necessity of having a proper system of depreciation, the conference proving both instructive and enjoyable.

The fourth was held at Mountsorrel on 18th July, this being the annual meeting. The business consisted of a discussion on the report of the delegate to Dublin Congress and the district report and balance sheet, the officers for the year also being elected at this meeting.

Our fifth was held at Shepshed on 24th October, when Mr. G. Stanton (Great Wigston) read his paper entitled "The Menace of the Multiple Shop," urging that co-operators might with advantage follow some of the methods of the multiple shop.

Good attendances and intelligent discussions have been a feature of the conferences, and we believe the holding of these conferences at regular intervals cannot be other than good for the movement generally.

Great concern was felt when the war broke out in August as to how it would affect trade, which seemed for a short time to be in a state of panic, but we are pleased to say, so far as the Leicester district is concerned, it has had the effect of turning people's thoughts in the direction of co-operation.

As an example Leicester Society, at the time of writing, are making new members at an average rate of over 100 per week, and during 1914 did a trade of over £500,000 for the first time during the history of the society. Coalville, Barwell, Shepshed, Great Wigston, and Croft distributive societies all show substantial increases in trade; the same may be said of Equity Boot, Anchor Boot, Glenfield Progress Boot, Sileby Excelsior Boot, Sperope Boot, Self-Help Boot, Wigston Hosiers and Morning Star Sundries societies.

The Anstey Distributive Society, which had fallen on bad times to which it seemed likely to succumb, has been taken over as a branch by the Leicester Society, and bids fair to become one of the best branches they possess.

We are pleased to note the activity which has prevailed during the winter by our education committees in spreading the principles of co-operation and instructing members and their children by means of lectures, classes, socials, &c., work in which they have been very ably assisted by the members of the women's guild.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	3	2 7	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	3	5 9
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	10	4 3	„ „ District Conferences	11	8 5
„ Subscriptions from Societies	18	18 6	„ General Printing and Stationery..	5	1 3
„ Cash due to Treasurer, 31st Dec.,			„ Postages	1	9 0
1914	0	7 1	„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
Audited—			„ Auditors	0	5 0
S. DRINKWATER.			„ Congress Delegate.....	4	3 0
T. COATES.					
	£27	12 5		£27	12 5

W. E. PEPPER, Secretary.

No. 4.—COVENTRY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. William Garner (chairman), Coventry.	Mr. W. H. Dexter, Rugby.
„ James Clay (secretary), Coventry.	„ A. Roberts, Nuneaton.
„ E. Hilton, Lockhurst Lane.	„ G. Kemp, Nuneaton.
„ J. Carter, Rugby.	„ J. H. Clarke, Atherstone.
	„ W. E. Wood, Coventry.

It is gratifying, at the close of the year 1914, to be able to report that, taking all things into consideration, the societies in the Coventry district promise to come out very much stronger and sounder than might have been expected. The work of the district executive has been thrown somewhat out of gear by the immediate effects of the war-time, but they have held their usual meetings as far as possible.

A conference was held at Coventry on 21st March, when a paper by a member of the Coventry Women's Guild, entitled "A Woman's Observations on Co-operation," was read by Mrs. Corrie, the writer, and was well discussed.

The next conference, at Atherstone, on 25th July, was the annual meeting of the district, and at this conference Mr. J. Clay (district secretary) read his paper on "Dividend: Its Work and Influence in Co-operation." This also proved a lively subject.

The third conference was held at Rugby on 17th October, when Mr. Harris (Lincoln) introduced the subject of "Co-operative Policy during the War." This proved an exceptionally well-timed and useful conference.

A propaganda meeting was held by the executive at Napton-on-the-Hill on 30th October, when a large meeting of members and friends assembled, and we have reason to believe that subsequent action on the part of the committee will result in benefit to this society.

On 20th February, 1915, a joint conference with the Leicester district was held at Nuneaton, when the Union proposals *re* "Co-operation with Other Forces" were read and debated, the subject ultimately being referred to the various societies represented for decision.

In addition the executive have held four meetings during the year 1914.

Reports from societies show that, in spite of serious dislocation caused by the outbreak of the war, by the upheaval in prices, by the absence of many trusted employes, and by difficulties in transport and supply, good progress in trade and membership has been maintained, and that the loyalty of members, although tested in many ways, has stood the strain in a remarkable degree, giving promise when peace conditions again prevail of a progress far exceeding all previous records.

At Atherstone "business as usual" has been well maintained, together with a good dividend and trade. The completion of the new large warehouse, and the purchase of a splendidly-situated plot of land, will enable extensions to be made that are now badly needed. This society is growing steadily

and strongly and is being built up financially, and with great care and forethought. The death of Mr. John Ingham, whose association with the society dates from the days of its early struggles for existence, has been a loss both to the society and to the district executive, of which he was a member for many years. Atherstone Society has done, is doing, and will do well.

Nuneaton Society report an increase in trade during the year of £16,000 over 1913, and 600 in membership. This, when local circumstances are taken into consideration, is very good. A new grocery branch has been opened at Market Bosworth, and others will soon be opened at Arley, Chapel End, and Queen's Road, Nuneaton. An enlargement of the already fine central premises is contemplated in the near future and provision made for doing this. The society has also purchased Canal Farm, Tuttle Hill, at a cost of £4,000. This farm is freehold and will prove a very valuable asset to the society. A butchery department has also been opened at Attleborough. So that good progress all round has marked the year.

Rugby annual sales this year have reached the total of £194,016, an increase of nearly £5,000 over the preceding year. A new branch at Kilsby has been opened, making the thirteenth branch for this society. The membership is now nearly 7,000, and is increasing in spite of heavy competition from private trade, and progress all round is being made. Financially, the society is strong, and the policy of paying an even and moderate dividend is having good and permanent results.

Lockhurst Lane Society has had an uphill fight for several years since placing its trade on a purely cash basis, but is now making headway, its fine bakery having proved a very valuable investment. Its extensions at Longford are also proving a source of strength, and, although unable to maintain the high dividend paid in past years, it is making sure advance. Its recent purchases of building land will enable it in the near future to develop its resources in many ways.

Coventry Society reports total sales in 1914 of £439,145, an increase for the year of £44,924, and a large increase in the membership. Passing through a very trying time at the outbreak of the war the better sense of the membership soon recovered its balance, and although troubled through bad supplies through limited railway accommodation and other causes, the normal state of trade (except in prices) has now been almost resumed and trade is going on as before. No special additions to the property of the society have been completed, but a fine block section of the new central premises scheme is in the builders' hands, and hastening towards completion. Three new branch stores will be erected during 1915, and other developments are in contemplation.

A tribute to the work of the various women's guilds and educational committee should be paid, as much of the progress of societies in the district is due to their untiring efforts on behalf of the movement.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914	4	18 3	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	6	7 3
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	14	17 11	„ „ District Conferences	8	15 8
„ Subscriptions from Societies	9	11 6	„ Deputations to Societies	2	0 6
„ Subscription from Executive—			„ General Printing and Stationery..	3	16 0
Coventry District	0	13 4	„ Postages	0	8 6
Audited—			„ Secretary's Salary	2	2 0
ERNEST HILTON.			„ Propaganda Meeting—Napton,		
WILLIAM GARNER.			31st October.....	2	14 6
			„ Auditors' Fees	0	4 0
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			31st December, 1914	3	12 7
	£30	1 0		£30	1 0

JAMES CLAY, Secretary.

No. 5.—BIRMINGHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Frank H. Bruff (hon. secretary), Birmingham.	Mr. F. Cornforth, Birmingham Indus- trial.
„ H. Johnson, Alcester.	„ H. Pagett, Kidderminster.
„ I. Evans, Dudley.	„ Chas. A. W. Saxton, Worcester.
„ R. Hill, Soho.	„ W. Summers, Ten Acres & Stirchley.

Never in the history of co-operation has the movement been subjected to so severe a test of the value of its principles as in the year under review ; and to say that in our own district it has stood the test nobly, really belittles the boon co-operation has proved to all classes of the people in the great crisis which was, without warning, thrust upon us. Not a town or village possessing a co-operative store but has shown a tremendous lead in the steadying of prices of all necessary commodities, and most especially in the “staff of life.” Always subject to the varying conditions of the market, whether from real or fictitious causes, flour and bread prices seem of all necessities to be the ready “game” of the unscrupulous ; and the latter saw evidently an opportunity in the coming of the war. But they reckoned without “co-operation.” Already the movement is reaping a rich reward from its straight dealing, and some of our societies have had to record such great increases in membership as to make it really difficult to cope with the resultant increased trade.

Of the particular operations of individual societies, amongst the most notable occurrences is the decision of the Worcester Society to take over the Malvern Society which has for some time been working under the supervision of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. This is really good business ; for while Malvern is sure to prove profitable as a branch of the Worcester Society, as a separate unit it has proved unprofitable.

At Kidderminster Mr. H. Pagett has retired from the secretaryship after 18 years most honourable service, the cashier, Mr. A. Barber being elected to succeed him.

Ten Acres and Stirchley will be getting into their large and sumptuously-fitted new central premises before this report is issued ; and Birmingham have made a good start on their new central premises in High Street, Birmingham.

Soho Society has completed a magnificent new bakery and offices, and the former should ensure to the members a tip-top loaf.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society have acquired additional property adjoining their present Birmingham depôt, and fronting as it does to Worcester Street, will bring this place of business into more public prominence.

The Midland Woodworkers keep pegging along, and we shall yet see them flourishing if societies will do their best for them. Certainly this society gives its best to all its customers.

The Birmingham Printers, though one of the trades hit hard by the war, have kept up their reputation for always running full time, but they need all the help they can get at this crisis. Their turnover for 1914 very nearly approaches £10,000.

All round societies report distinct and well-maintained progress in both sales and membership. The movement is extending and ripening all through the district.

Four conferences have been held, the venue of the first being Stirchley, on 24th January, the paper being read by Mrs. Cottrell. The subject was "A Co-operative Policy," and the paper called for a more definite and educative policy, both from the Union and Co-operative Wholesale Society Boards.

The second conference was held under the auspices of Soho Society at Smethwick, on 25th April, when Mr. A. W. Critchley introduced the subject of "The Productive Requirements of the Midlands." A general desire was expressed for a much larger share in production being undertaken in the district, one of the needs particularly mentioned being a bacon factory. Certainly the "workshop of the world" is a long way behind in these matters.

The third conference, which was also the annual meeting, was held at Worcester, on 27th June, when Mr. Chas. A. W. Saxton introduced the subject of "A National Society," quoting various extracts from the late Mr. J. C. Gray's Congress Address on the subject. It was generally agreed that the time was not yet ripe for the whole project, yet it was felt that much might be done towards greater unity in the movement.

The fourth conference was held at Birmingham on 24th October, taking the place of the Annual Co-operative Convention, which, from its partly festive nature, was this year abandoned owing to the war. This conference was specially called at the instance of the Sectional Board to discuss "Co-operation and the War Crisis," the subject being introduced by Mr. J. Butcher (sectional board). Much evidence was adduced as to the good that co-operative action had effected in maintaining reasonable prices, as well as being a direct help to the Government in very many ways.

To sum up we start 1915 with the co-operative banner held higher than

ever, and all our societies fully prepared to meet all the extreme conditions which ruthless war is bound to bring in its train.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand.....		10	18	9	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	4	9	8	
„ Grant from Co-operative Union.....		10	11	8	„ „ District Conferences	8	2	7	
„ Subscriptions from Societies.....		14	6	0	„ „ General Printing and Stationery.	3	10	6	
					„ „ Postages.....	1	0	0	
					„ „ Secretary's Salary.....	2	0	0	
					„ „ Delegate to Congress.....	3	10	0	
					„ „ Balance in hand of Treasurer, 1st January, 1915.....	13	4	1	
Audited— ARTHUR GREEN, B.Sc.									
		£35	16	5			£35	16	5

FRANK H. BRUFF, Hon. Secretary.

No. 6.—STAFFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. A. Fulwood (chairman), Wolverhampton.	Mr. James Grantham, Cannock.
„ H. Sanders (secretary), Tamworth.	„ H. Hilliard, Walsall.
„ Jos. Clewlow, Stafford.	„ Wm. Evans, Burton-on-Trent.
„ F. H. Hunt, Shrewsbury.	„ W. J. Harris, Wednesbury.
„ John Pessell, Oakengates.	„ A. Campbell, Rugeley.
	„ G. Bagot, Stone.

We have to report another successful year, the majority of our societies having made remarkable progress.,

Burton-on-Trent has done a cash trade of £259,113—an increase of £28,781, the membership has increased by 736, share capital has increased £10,205, net profit increase £4,651. This society holds the premier position for the sale of the *Co-operative News*, and to this, and the adoption of the Collective Life Assurance Scheme, is attributed the great acceleration to the rate of progress.

The Walsall Society has made phenomenal progress, the sales for the year amounting to £169,549—an increase of £38,646, or 29 per cent, and shares have increased by £12,541. The society has £1,400 in the Emergency Fund, to help members who meet with difficulties. The trade is strictly cash, and the success is largely due to the abolition of credit.

The Tamworth Society's sales amount to £135,003—increase £14,634; and a profit has been made on the farm of £401.

The Cannock Society's sales for the year are £81,980—increase £14,607.
Increase in members, 450.

Wolverhampton has made good progress, the sales being £69,512—an increase of £10,869. The bakery output has increased during the year fifty sacks per week.

Shrewsbury's new branch at Ludlow has 353 members, doing a trade of £82 per week. The society's sales are £59,754—an increase of £10,190. Other new branches are in contemplation.

Stafford has made good progress since celebrating its jubilee and re-building the central premises, and has reached a 2s. dividend.

Rugeley has increases all round, and more commodious premises are being built.

Oakengates and Ironbridge have made increases.

Wednesbury Society's sales have increased 15 per cent during the year, and better progress is being made in the West Bromwich Branch.

Bridgnorth and Cheadle are doing fairly well.

The help the co-operative movement can be to those outside its pale has been demonstrated during the past year by keeping down the prices of commodities, against the wishes of private traders. The loyalty of the movement to its King and Country has been seen in the help rendered in supplying the needs of the Army and Navy in many ways.

There have been four conferences during the year, which have been well attended.

The first conference was held at the Lichfield Branch of Walsall Society on 28th March, 1914. Mr. W. Abbotts read his paper: "Cash Trading and Emergency Funds."

The second was at Burton-on-Trent on 27th June, 1914. Mr. F. B. Hicks read a paper: "Committees of Co-operative Societies and their Qualifications."

The third was at Rugeley on 24th October, 1914, when Mr. S. Butler (Midland Sectional Board) introduced the subject: "The Co-operative Policy during the War Crisis."

The fourth conference was at Shrewsbury on 16th January, 1915. Mr. A. H. Jones gave an address on "District Work: Its Future Organisation and Development."

The discussions have been very helpful and vigorous. Help has been given to societies in propaganda work, and the whole tone of the district is decidedly healthy.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	1	0	By Attendances Executive Meetings	13	12
" Grant from Co-operative Union..	23	15	" " District Conferences..	15	3
" Subscriptions from Societies	13	5	" Deputations to Societies.....	1	15
			" General Printing and Stationery.	0	17
			" Postages	1	8
			" Delegate to Congress.....	2	10
			" Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			31st December, 1914	2	14
Audited—					
JOHN PESSALL.					
£38 0 11				£33 0 11	

HENRY SANDERS, Secretary.

No. 7.—DERBY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. George Wilson (president), Derby.	Mr. C. Purdy, Langley Mill.
„ Thos. Leaman (secretary), Ripley.	„ T. W. Palfreyman, Clay Cross.
„ T. Levick, Derby Printers.	„ S. Page, Ilkeston.
„ W. Wyld, Tibshelf.	„ Geo. Parr, Ripley.
„ James Ball, Bolsover.	„ W. F. Hannett, Codnor Park.
„ T. H. Edinborough, Long Eaton Printers.	„ H. Turner, Long Eaton.

Since our last report our beloved country has passed through a crisis such as we have never before experienced, and we are all proud that our co-operative principles have withstood the test as well, if not better, than any other institution in the land.

The two printing societies—Derby and Long Eaton—are still making progress, and once again appeal to general and educational committees, likewise to trade-unionists, for further support. The Derby Printers are now settled in their new buildings, which offer facilities for doing double the amount of trade. The committee are prepared to receive further share capital.

Most of the societies in the district have made large increases in trade and membership during the year.

Bolsover shows an increase of 21 per cent in sales, with a net increase of 105 members.

The Special Propaganda Committee are doing their best to bring about an amalgamation of the Clay Cross and Chesterfield societies, which will no doubt be successful. The scheme of amalgamation was at first intended to embrace other societies, of which particulars will be reported by the sectional board.

The Tibshelf Society states that its drapery and millinery departments are adversely affected owing to the war; but, on the whole, the society has more than held its own for the year.

Codnor Park shows slight increases, but there seems no room whatever for its expansion, being hemmed in on every side by the larger societies of Ripley and Langley Mill, and no doubt the business could be done much more economically in this locality by amalgamations.

The Langley Mill Society reports splendid increases all round—sales increase over £20,000. During the year the Collective Life Assurance Scheme has been taken up and is proving very successful. All previous losses on beverage manufacture have been wiped off and a profit of over £800 made. Large supplies have been sent to the military camp at Grantham.

The Ilkeston and Long Eaton societies continue to make satisfactory progress.

Derby is still forging ahead, beating all records, the sales for the year

being over £800,000 and profits over £100,000. The membership is now 29,405—an increase of 1,183.

The Ripley Society has also had a record year in sales and membership, and since the war broke out has enrolled more members per week, on an average, than any time in the society's history. The educational committee have done splendid work by holding successful meetings at all the branches, which has greatly assisted in the influx of new members.

Three conferences have been held, which have been fairly well attended.

The first was held at Tibshelf, when Mr. W. G. Harrison's Congress paper, "The Best Means of Developing the Productive Side of the Movement," was read by Mr. W. Wyld. The following resolution was carried unanimously :—

That this conference of the Derby District Association is of opinion that the time is ripe for a big forward step in the development of co-operative production in all its phases, and urges all affiliated societies to seriously consider by what ways and means they can most effectually promote the growth of production by the stores, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the co-operative productive societies.

The second conference was held at Wirksworth, the subject for discussion being Mr. R. Fleming's presidential address at the Dublin Congress. Mr. A. Watherston (Ripley) read the address.

The third conference was held at Derby on the 17th October, when the subject for discussion was "The Co-operative Policy during the War Crisis," which was introduced by Mr. J. Millington (Birmingham), who dealt with the subject in a very able manner, and the discussion that followed was very good indeed.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	5	7 6	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	3	17 10
„ Grant from Co-operative Union ..	10	14 9	„ „ District Conferences	7	0 11
„ Subscriptions from Societies	6	1 0	„ Deputations to Societies	0	12 3
			„ General Printing and Stationery.	0	10 0
			„ Postages	0	15 6
			„ Auditor's Fee	0	2 6
			„ Delegate to Congress	3	0 0
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			31st December, 1914	6	3 3
				£22	3 3

Audited—

WILLIAM R. PILCHER.

T. LEAMAN, Secretary.

No. 8.—NOTTINGHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. G. Shacklock, J.P. (president),
East Kirkby, Notts.
„ H. D. Neate (editor of *Record*),
Keyworth.
„ S. H. Brown (secretary), Notts.
„ Robt. Ely (treasurer), Pleasley Hill.

Mr. G. A. Arnold, Southwell.
„ Wm. Blood, Ruddington.
„ J. Daykin, Nottingham.
„ Frank Hays, Codnor Park and
Selston Bakery.

During the year we have made an earnest endeavour to form a protective association in the district with the object of distributing the loss on societies through tuberculosis and other accidents in cattle, and obtained some useful information from the Co-operative Insurance Society, the Agricultural Organisation Society, and the Co-operative Union Limited, to whom we beg to acknowledge our indebtedness. The matter for the present is, by the decision of the association, held in abeyance on account of the armageddon, but we hope in better days to take up the question again and work it to a successful issue.

We regret to have to record the loss during the year of one of our stalwarts, the late Mr. E. Hibbard (Mansfield and Sutton).

The full quota of conferences have been held during the year.

The first was at the Baptist Chapel, Bulwell, when Mr. E. Forsyth (Bulwell) read an excellent paper on "The Need of a Perfect Understanding amongst Co-operators."

On Saturday, 27th June, in the city of Southwell, the second conference was held, when Mr. D. Cave (Cinder Hill), who was our Congress delegate, gave his report.

By 26th September, the date of the third conference, at Pleasley Hill, shells and bullets had shaken Europe, and we were all concerned as to the future. Mr. Millington (sectional board) read an instructive and (for the time and all time) useful paper, entitled "The Co-operative Policy during the War Crisis." A good discussion followed, and undoubtedly the essay did much to help committees of management in the district to keep their heads cool and make the best of more restricted opportunities.

At Nottingham, on 21st November, the fourth conference took place, when the respected secretary of the Nottingham Society called attention to the question of the hour, "The Fusion of Forces." Mr. Douse carried the audience with him in an earnest appeal for interest in and defence of the co-operative movement, and on the resolutions of the Co-operative Union being put to the meeting, the voting was—Resolution 1: For, 1; against, 41. Resolution 2: For, 5; against, 40. Resolution 3: For, 62; against, 2.

Seven executive meetings have taken place during the year, with 49 attendances.

The retail societies in this district have maintained a satisfactory position throughout the year. The average increase of trade is about 7 per cent

The Mansfield Society is the first in the district to pass £300,000 per year, having, along with the Hucknall Torkard Society, the advantage of very successful jubilee celebrations.

The Southwell Society has suffered exceptionally through the war, a large number of trading members having gone for the defence of "the land we love so well."

The Keyworth Society is heroically plodding through its difficulties, showing an increase of 4 per cent. We have every confidence that the

sterling character of the members will bring both these societies through successfully.

The Nottingham Printers are holding their own, and with a little more encouragement from the local societies will soon become a flourishing institution.

The Kirkby Hosiery Manufacturers, following the considerable extension of their premises a year since, are getting trade in keeping with the adventure, their increase during the year reaching the phenomenal height of 52 per cent.

The Huthwaite factory made an increase of 26½ per cent, which corresponds with the healthy state of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's business throughout the country.

Although we have much headway to make, we have every confidence in the future of the movement in the Nottingham District.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	0	17 10½	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	10	9 10
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	17	8 4	„ „ District Conferences	0	15 3
„ Subscriptions from Societies	20	8 0	„ General Printing and Stationery.	3	15 9
„ Transfers from Record Account			„ Postages	1	11 9
for Women's Guild (error, see			„ Secretary's Salary	3	13 9
31st December, 1913.)	2	12 5	„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
„ Contribution to Balance	0	1 9½	31st December, 1914	20	17 1
Audited—					
ALFRED WYLD.					
THOMAS WAGG.					
£41 3 5			£41 3 5		

S. H. BROWN, Secretary.

No. 9.—LINCOLN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Coulson (chairman), Lincoln.
 „ E. Hart (secretary), Grimsby.
 „ J. P. Baker, Peterborough.
 „ F. H. Brumpton, Gainsborough.
 „ T. Molloy, Scunthorpe.
 „ C. Stow, Boston.

Mr. C. King, Grantham
 „ W. T. Johnstone, Newark.
 „ W. T. Cadmore, Spalding.
 „ C. Clark, Retford.
 „ A. Cordines, Grimsby.
 „ D. McInnes, Lincoln.

Co-operation has, during the year 1914, come into its inheritance. Tolerated in some quarters, accepted in others, it has suddenly proved its strength as a great national asset, and in a time of emergency has vindicated the wisdom of the Government Departments which relied upon its assistance. This has been specially borne out in the Lincoln District, and various societies have been tested in no mean way by the extra strain thrown upon their resources. These have, however, stood the ordeal, and have displayed that power to grapple with an emergency which was probably not suspected outside our own borders.

The disastrous war has materially affected some of the smaller societies, but, taking the district as a whole, the movement of large bodies of troops

has made such heavy demands upon some societies that very large increases have resulted. This is particularly shown at Lincoln, Grimsby, Peterborough, Gainsborough, &c., where the demand has been consistently maintained throughout the war.

Three conferences and one executive meeting have been held during the year, the conference fixed up for August having to be abandoned in consequence of the outbreak of war.

Newark Society invited the first conference to meet there in February, when Mr. H. F. Wilson read a paper on "Old Ideals under New Conditions." There was a good attendance, and the paper was much appreciated and freely discussed.

The second conference met at Scunthorpe in May, when Mr. G. E. Sewell read a paper on "Co-operation: Is it Chimerical?" The essayist soon proved that the movement was by no means a fanciful one, but was well founded and healthy in its actions, and was taking full advantage of its opportunities.

The third conference, originally fixed for August, was deferred until November, and met in the Co-operative Hall, Gainsborough. Mr. F. H. Brumpton read a paper on "The Co-operative Goal: Some Steps Towards It." The writer proved that he had a lofty conception of the possibilities of the movement, and urged that we should go forward to possess the promised land in the full assurance of faith in the moral strength of our movement.

From the reports to hand, we find that our Lincoln friends still continue to record wonderful progress, and the increase for the year totals to more than £10,000. Continuous ovens have been erected and are now in full working order, having proved to be a great success.

Peterborough Society reports equal success, its trade for 1914 being £331,208, an increase over the previous year amounting to £20,718. This society's country trade is thoroughly systematised, with van rounds to the surrounding villages. The new branch at Oundle was opened in November and is already doing a trade of £100 per week.

Grimsby Society has had a most successful year, the increase in trade being more than £20,000. A large part of this was for Army and Navy requirements, large contracts having been arranged with the services. Two new motor lorries were purchased and have done splendid work.

Gainsborough Society has recovered the set-back of the previous year, when labour disputes affected the trade. An increase of £4,000 is recorded, and new furnishing and tobacco departments have been opened.

Scunthorpe Society still continues its wonderful progress. Over 500 new members have joined, and there is an increase of £9,000 in trade. The central premises have been enlarged at a cost of £2,000. Property has been purchased at Winterton, where a new branch will shortly be opened.

Grantham Society continues to show steady progress and reports an increase in trade. Two new motor vans have been purchased and have proved a great success.

through fellowship with other students, was most valuable. Mrs. Stein referred to the forthcoming School, and appealed to the delegates present to do what they could to make it a success.

The second conference was held at Stapleford, when Mr. J. Phillips gave his paper entitled "How to Educate our Members in Co-operative Productions." Mr. Phillips drew attention to the value of examples, saying officials and committees of societies should set an example to members by using, where possible, co-operative goods and wearing co-operative clothing. He advocated more frequent visits to co-operative productive works, more advertising, that children should be taught the value of co-operative productions by illustrated lectures specially suited to them.

Our third conference was held at Langley Mill, when Mr. T. Hackett read his paper on "The Influence of Education." Mr. Hackett said, in his opinion, no real and permanent advance was made towards the establishment of our aims without education, and in defence of this contention, took the example of Denmark, to show how it had improved through education. How the two great institutions—the people's high school movement and co-operative agriculture—worked side by side, making for prosperity. Grants were made by the Government towards carrying on the work, and the schools were free to all. He pointed out how in every district people worked together instead of apart, and the result of this educational system was seen not only in the business life, but they touched all the social activities of the nation.

The fourth conference was held at Birmingham, when Mr. George Stanton gave an interesting paper on "The Educability of Co-operators," in the course of which he showed the value of education and a need for general knowledge. He went on to say the existing educational committees would form an excellent skeleton to organise the movement's educational work upon, especially if we could link them to a definite centre of educational activity by making Professor Hall's idea of a co-operative college not a fanciful suggestion, but what he desires—a practical fact.

Your honorary secretary has represented the association on the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union. At the first meeting, held in July, among other things were the arrangements for the Summer School at Arnside and although the war affected the attendance, yet on the whole it was most successful from an educational standpoint.

Our thanks are due to the *Co-operative News*, whose representative has given good accounts of the work of the association.

We are pleased to welcome five societies, viz., Nottingham, Loughborough, Sileby Boot, Wigston Hosiers, and Derby Men's Guild, into the association.

The committee again appeal to all societies to join the association, and so help to make the Midland Section one of the most successful. There are many parts of the section which the association is unable to touch except by correspondence, and invitations to conferences, which from geographical

reasons are rarely responded to. The committee desire to be as helpful as possible to these societies by sending speakers if needed.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To District No. 1—					By Committee Meetings—				
Northampton		0	5	0	1914—16th May—Coventry		3	1	5
„ District No. 2—					25th July—Kidderminster ..		1	18	10
Desborough		0	5	0	28th Nov.—Nottingham..		2	8	10
Kettering		2	2	0	1915—16th Jan.—Foleshill....		2	1	6
„ Havelock		0	10	6	„ Conferences—				
„ Guild		0	2	6	1914—28th Mar.—Derby		2	0	7
Market Harborough		0	5	0	27th June—Stapleford ..		1	9	9
Raunds		0	5	0	16th Oct.—Langley Mill.		2	5	4
Rushden		0	5	0	19th Dec.—Birmingham.		2	2	6
„ Guild		0	2	6	„ Deputation		0	1	6
Wellington		0	10	0	„ Co-op. Union Representative (fare)		6	11	9
„ Joint Educational					„ Printing and Stationery		9	5	0
„ Committee		0	7	6	„ Postage, Secretary		2	10	0
„ Gordon Road Guild ..		0	5	0	„ „ Treasurer		0	6	9
„ Northampton Rd. „		0	5	0					
„ Ideal		0	10	0	„ Expenditure for the year.....		36	3	9
„ District No. 3—					„ Balance		11	10	3
Barwell		0	10	6					
Glenfield Progress		0	5	0					
Great Wigston		0	5	0					
Leicester Anchor		0	5	0					
„ Distributive		3	3	0					
„ Equity		0	10	6					
„ Guild		0	5	0					
„ Printers		0	10	6					
„ Self Help		0	5	0					
Loughborough		0	5	0					
Sileby		0	5	0					
Wigston Hosiers		0	5	0					
„ District No. 4—									
Andrews Watch		0	5	0					
Coventry		2	2	0					
„ Guild		0	2	6					
Nuneaton		0	10	6					
„ District No. 5—									
Birmingham		4	4	0					
„ Central Guild		0	2	6					
„ Small Heath Guild ..		0	5	0					
„ Handsworth Guild ..		0	2	6					
„ Sparkhill Guild ..		0	2	6					
Kidderminster		0	5	0					
Ten Acres		0	10	0					
Worcester		0	10	6					
„ District No. 6—									
Shrewsbury		0	5	0					
Tamworth		1	1	0					
Walsall		0	10	6					
„ Padlock		0	5	0					
„ District No. 7—									
Codnor Park		0	5	0					
Derby		4	4	0					
„ Men's Guild		0	5	0					
„ Guild		0	5	0					
„ Printers		0	5	0					
Ilkeston		2	2	0					
„ Guild		0	2	6					
Langley Mill		1	1	0					
Long Eaton Guild		0	2	6					
Ripley		1	1	0					
„ District No. 8—									
Cinder Hill		0	5	0					
Hucknall Torkard		1	1	0					
„ „ Guild (2 years) ..		0	5	0					
Carried forward		35	2	0					

SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE.

	£	s.	d.
Coventry Guild	0	2	6
Ilkeston	0	2	6
Hucknall Torkard	1	1	0
Lincoln	0	10	6
Peterborough	0	10	6
Ten Acres and Stinchley ..	2	0	0
A.U.C.E.	0	5	0
	<u>£4</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>

	£	s.	d.
Balance	11	10	3
Paid in advance	4	12	0

Present balance with

Treasurer	<u>£16</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
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MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

	1914.	1915.
Societies	46	51
Women's Guilds	18	19
Men's Guilds	—	1
A.U.C.E.	1	1
	<u>65</u>	<u>72</u>

Carried forward 47 14 0

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	35	2	0
To District No. 8—			
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	0	10	0
Mansfield	1	1	0
" Guild	0	2	6
Nottingham	0	10	6
Selston	0	5	0
Stapleford	0	7	6
„ District No. 9—			
Bracebridge Guild	0	2	6
Gainsborough	0	5	0
Grantham	0	5	0
" Guild	0	2	6
Lincoln	0	10	6
" Guild	0	2	6
Peterborough	0	10	6
Retford	0	5	0
Grimsby	0	5	0
Midland A.U.C.E.	0	5	0
Dividend—Derby Printers	0	3	0
Income for the year	40	15	0
Balance, March, 1914	6	19	0
	£47	14	0

Brought forward £ s. d.
47 14 0

Audited—
JOHN COX.

£47 14 0

Miss C. A. WOOLLEY, Hon. Secretary.

(3) NORTHERN SECTION.

The attendance of the members at the ordinary meetings held during the past year has been as under :—

	Present.		Absent.		Possible.
Mr. J. Davison.....	11	....	1	....	12
„ J. C. Aiston	9	....	—	....	9
„ J. Murdoch	7	....	5	....	12
„ W. Scott	11	....	1	....	12
„ W. R. Rae	9	....	3	....	12
„ S. Galbraith	8	....	4	....	12
„ G. Bedford	11	....	1	....	12

In each case where members have been absent the causes have been entirely outside their control to remedy.

HON. MEMBERS.

Mr. H. R. Bailey.

Mr. W. Crooks.

Mr. T. Rule.

At the meeting held on 13th June, 1914, the following appointments were made :—

Chairman of the Section Mr. J. DAVISON.

Representatives on the—

United Board Messrs. J. Murdoch and W. Scott.

Educational Committee Mr. W. R. Rae.

Sectional Office Committee—

Messrs. Bedford, Aiston, Davison and Galbraith.

We are represented on the Parliamentary and the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators by Mr. J. Murdoch.

Last year has been one of the most eventful in the history of our movement, and has shown conclusively the advantages of the methods that in a special sense we regard as being ours. Co-operation in one form or other has been applied to meet almost every difficulty with which, as a nation, we have been faced with results that are entirely satisfactory, and indicate that later, when peace is secured, there will be a more general application of this principle than previously. Most of our societies have, during the war period, made substantial increases in both membership and trade, and with two or three exceptions the whole section is in a healthy condition.

There have been difficulties of various kinds with a few societies, and it is possible that amalgamations will have to be sought in two or three cases. Perhaps financial aid will require to be given in the case of one small society, and the Board feel sure that if the circumstances warrant an appeal it will receive a suitable response.

When the war is over there will, we believe, be a great opportunity for a more intensive and extensive development of co-operation, such an opportunity as never comes twice to the same generation, and of which we must take the fullest advantage

WINDY NOOK TRAGEDY FUND.

The amount paid out last year to the widow and children of the late J. Patterson was £57. 4s., being at the rate of 22s. per week.

Last year it was reported that an application had been received from Mr. G. Ather for assistance and that the sum of £10 had been granted him. He made a further application, and for a larger sum, and after an interview with the doctor the trustees decided to grant him an additional sum of £55 in full settlement of all claims on the fund. This he accepted.

The amount standing to the credit of the fund was at the end of 31st December, 1914, £794. 3s. 2d.

GILSLAND CONVALESCENT HOME LIMITED.

During the past year there has been a decrease in the income from convalescents of £228. 1s. 6d., and from visitors of £453. 19s. 3½d. under the previous year. This decrease in income was due to the break-up of the season early in August, a large number of convalescents and visitors preferring to remain at their homes during the first few weeks of anxiety. There was every prospect that, but for the European War, last season would have been a record one.

Notwithstanding this decrease in income, there was a profit of £185. 5s. 7½d. on the year's management, which was transferred to the depreciation of plant.

Early this year the War Office required the use of the Home for Red Cross purposes, and at the present time there are about 300 convalescent wounded soldiers in residence. These soldiers, after being treated for their wounds at the hospitals, are despatched to Gilsland and other places during convalescence, and as they recover health and strength are sent back to France and replaced by other comrades of misfortune. Co-operators should be gratified that they, as working men, are able to provide such an excellent institution for the good of the country and of the men who are fighting for its honour and glory.

SECTIONAL EXHIBITION AND DEMONSTRATION.

This was held at Blyth, and, so far as attendance goes and the objects to be served, was a pronounced success.

Including children, the total number of persons visiting it would not be less than 20,000, the receipts for admission being £145. 16s. 7d. Lord Ridley of Blagdon, opened it, and pointed out that he had heard something of the work done by co-operative societies in that district in the developing of character and the spread of good influences and education, and felt sure the people of Blyth would note with interest the exhibits and which, he hoped, would result in a keener desire to study more and more the great problems they had to face and solve.

A feature in connection with it was that the education authorities permitted the children to go through during school hours. Short addresses were given and prizes offered for the best papers. Fifty-six prizes were given and some 400 papers were sent in.

The streets were lined throughout the whole route taken by the horse procession. Decorations and grooming alike were good, and in two or three cases the judges experienced difficulty in arriving at a decision.

CHORAL COMPETITION.

This competition was held in the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Dining Hall on Wednesday, 6th May, 1914. The choirs competing were Birtley, Sunderland, Consett, and Middlesbrough. The adjudicator was Mr. W. G. Whittaker, of Newcastle, and the test pieces were :—Mixed voice choirs, "The Ballad of Semmerwater"; Quartette (mixed voices), "In Autumn"; Soprano solo, "Nymphs and Shepherds"; Contralto solo, "Litany"; Tenor solo, "Thou, whom my Soul"; and Bass solo, "My Captain."

The prize winners were :—Mixed choirs, 1st Middlesbrough, 2nd Consett, 3rd Birtley, and 4th Sunderland; Quartette, Middlesbrough; Soprano, Middlesbrough; Contralto, Sunderland; Tenor, Birtley; Bass, Middlesbrough.

Owing to the fact that there is not this year an exhibition, it has been decided not to hold the choral competition.

CONCILIATION BOARDS.

Subject to the approval of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés' delegate meeting, to be held at Leicester in Easter week, conciliation boards may be formed, both district and national. In regard to the former they shall consist of representatives of co-operative societies (including one from the Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union Limited) and of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés on behalf of its members, in equal numbers, an equal number on each side to vote. The boards shall appoint their own chairman at each meeting, who shall each have only his one vote as a board member. In the event of the district boards being unable to agree upon matters before them, the questions shall be referred to the National Conciliation Board.

PROPRIETARY ARTICLES TRADING ASSOCIATION.

We regret that it has not been possible to chronicle any progress in the direction of meeting this form of competition. Societies, not only in the north, but all over the United Kingdom, were written to asking for their experiences, and if they were prepared to give to the Wholesale Society their trade in such articles as they now purchased from societies' members of the Proprietary Articles Trading Association if the Co-operative Wholesale Society were prepared to manufacture such. The response was meagre, and shows that generally the movement is not alive to the character nor the extent of the forces that are arrayed against it. Sooner or later this fight will have to come, and if we are ready it would be better to have it sooner than later.

FEDERATION.

For two or three years now the question of federation has occupied a place in this report. Last year we had to announce that a number of societies had agreed, subject to certain conditions, to a uniform dividend as a first step. Since then it has, in one district at least, taken on another form, that of federation for bakery purposes. A group of five societies—and there are, we understand, other applications—have taken over a bakery, subscribed the necessary capital, got the rules registered and the committee appointed and the bakery opened. Another group in the Blaydon area have held two meetings with the same object in view, and there is every likelihood that it will prove equally successful.

We hope other districts will do likewise, for never in the history of the movement have the advantages of a closer unity been so apparent as during the past eight months, and if we, whose principles are co-operative ones, will take advantage of the present opportunities and apply these principles wherever possible, our power and influence will become much greater than it has ever been in the past.

FUSION OF FORCES.

There was passed on to the societies for consideration and approval, or otherwise, the question of the movement co-operating with other forces. The matter was fully discussed at the sectional conference held at Carlisle. Representatives were asked to bring before their respective committees the three proposals, asking them to, if possible, consult their members, or failing that to register a vote as a committee. These replies have now been sent out, and so far as this section is concerned are overwhelmingly in favour of No. 3; namely:—

That this conference does not approve of any joint action with any outside organisation with the exception of the interchange of friendly greetings as heretofore.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

Somewhat similar in principle to that of the "Fusion of Forces" is the question of the grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild, and which

the Central Board, for certain reasons, declined to accede to until the consent of Congress had been secured. A statement on the subject is being prepared by the General Secretary for submission to societies.

OBITUARY.

Mr. W. Hood died at Tweedmouth on 31st October, 1914, at 75 years of age. In 1866 he was appointed secretary, a position he held for 46 years, and during which time he was only absent once from the society's quarterly meetings. His intensity of purpose, his kind and gentle disposition won for him a place in the hearts of all, whilst his grasp of the society's business, and the consideration for the welfare of the society, contributed materially towards its success.

Just as we are completing this report intimation is received of the passing of John Wilson, M.P., a man who was always keenly interested in this movement and for three years served on the Northern Sectional Board, when he retired owing to pressure of other duties. Amongst those who have laboured to make trade-unionism a power, his name will always be an outstanding one. He passed away full of years, always sincere, frank, and outspoken, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He did not please all men, no leader ever does, but it would be safe to say he did no man ill and wished well to all. His funeral was one of the largest that ever took place in the city.

On the second day of the new year there was laid to rest in the Jarrow Cemetery the remains of Mr. W. D. Graham, the esteemed secretary of the Jarrow and Hebburn Society. He was a typical Northumbrian, sturdy, tactful, energetic, and capable. He came to Jarrow from Plessey in 1883 to undertake the onerous duties of secretary to the Jarrow and Hebburn Co-operative Society, and from that time onward had been associated with its growth. In the early years his difficulties were great, but he faced them with undaunted spirit, and lived to see it one of the most prosperous and, at the same time, one of the most co-operative societies in the North of England. In 1893 he was elected to the Board of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which gave him even a wider field for his abilities. He filled that position with dignity and credit, and there, not less than in the councils of the local society, his loss will be keenly felt. He was intensely democratic in his sympathies, and was prepared to trust the people. In disposition he was extremely courteous and generous, as many both young and old can testify. The funeral was a large and representative one, and witnessed to his worth and ability as a man.

Mr. Tremble occupied for many years an important place in the life of Cleator Moor Society, especially on its educational side. He was elected to the management committee of the society in 1897, filling the position of president and vice-president with exceptional ability. He held strongly by his co-operative convictions, was a fluent speaker, and served the society during his term of office wholeheartedly. At the time of his death he represented the Cumberland District on the Gilsland Convalescent Home. He

had a keen sense of the beautiful in nature or art, and was a painter of a high order. He died on 7th August, and the large and representative character of the funeral was a testimony of the esteem in which he was held.

J. DAVISON, Chairman.

W. CLAYTON, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Strong (chairman), Ashington.	Mr. T. Young, Tweedmouth.
„ G. Hardy (secretary), Bank Top, Bedlington.	„ T. Jackson, Pegswood.
„ J. Gillians, Ashington.	„ R. Lee, Bedlington.
	„ J. Herdman, Newbiggin.

Mr. J. Davison, Bedlington, Sectional Representative.

This district is only able to report the holding of one conference this year, viz. :—The conference held at Bebside on 6th June, 1914, at which we were favoured with a visit from Mr. W. R. Rae, who gave a clear and forcible address, entitled “Federation,” after which the following took part in an interesting discussion :—Messrs. Glighon, T. Charlton, A. Young, J. English (Co-operative Wholesale Society), and T. Young. After which the following resolution was agreed to :—

That this conference approves the central idea of federation and urges the district executive to continue the advocacy of the same, and if necessary to arrange for a further conference on the subject even with the neighbouring district to further discuss the matter.

While we only report one conference, this district has been favoured during the year by the holding of a sectional conference at Bedlington, at which Mr. Whitehead, the General Secretary, was present, and also the holding of the sectional conference and exhibition at Blyth, the reports of which will have been furnished by Mr. Clayton in his sectional report.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional			By Executive Meetings	4	17 4
Office	12	14 0	„ Conferences	7	13 8
			„ Postage	0	3 0
	£12	14 0			
				£12	14 0

G. HARDY, Secretary.

No. 2.—SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Endeau (chairman), Cramlington.	Mr. J. McKay, Walker-on-Tyne.
„ J. Wight (secretary), Cramlington.	„ J. W. Lambton, North Shields.
„ T. G. Hunter, Wallsend.	„ T. Whitnell, Newcastle.
	„ J. U. Barrow, Bankworth.

Mr. J. C. Aiston, Newcastle, Sectional Representative.

Two conferences have been held during the past year.

The first was held in the Co-operative Wholesale Society's premises, West Blandford Street, Newcastle, on Saturday, 7th February, 1914. Mr. W. R. Rae gave an address on "Federation," after which the following resolution was passed :—

That this meeting, believing that the time has come when, in the best interests of the societies, some scheme of federation on the lines indicated in Mr. Rae's paper read to-day should be established, instructs the district executive to take steps to invite the co-operation of the committees of societies in No. 2 District on this question.

After considerable discussion the resolution was carried unanimously.

This was followed by an address by Mr. J. McKay on the formation of Men's Guilds, and in which he urged that the discussion that day had indicated the necessity for such.

The second conference was held at Walker, when Mr. Clayton gave an address on "Trusts and Combines; their object and effect on the Movement." He showed how rapid had been the growth in recent years and the extent to which they were controlling prices, one of the chief objects that the movement was established for. The day of the small shopkeeper and the small manufacturer was, speaking generally, going, and there was a pressing need why the movement should recognise the latent forces they possessed and the outside opposition with which they would be met. Several of the delegates took part in the discussion, after which a vote of thanks was accorded Mr Clayton for his address.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	7 13 3	By Executive Meetings	3 13 3
		„ Conferences	4 0 0
	£7 13 3		£7 13 3

J. WIGHT, Secretary.

No. 3.—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Irving Graham, J.P. (chairman), Carlisle,	Mr. J. Hunt, Workington.
„ John Stephenson (secretary), Blenner- hasset, Carlisle.	„ J. Mackay, Cleator Moor.
„ N. Ismay, Maryport.	„ Tyson, Egremont.
	„ T. H. Walker, Penrith.

Mr. J. Murdoch, Workington, Sectional Representative.

During the year ended 31st December, 1914, three conferences and three meetings of the executive committee have been held.

This district is composed of 19 societies, formerly 21, Harrington having amalgamated with the Beehive Workington, and Windermere for convenience joined the North-Western Section some time ago. There are eight societies which, for some reason or other, were not represented at any of the conferences held during the year nor for several years past. This is a source of weakness and indication of a lack of interest in matters affecting co-operation generally. Taking the 19 societies, the average attendance of delegates is for the three conferences 1.6, 1.3, and 1.3. Omitting the eight societies not represented the average is 2.8, 2.2, and 2.3 respectively. The women's guilds are also taking more interest in the conferences, which is very encouraging. The conference usually held in November was postponed owing to the war crisis.

The first conference was held at Maryport on 14th February, 1914, Mr. Graham presiding. Mr. Clayton addressed the delegates present, taking for his subject "The Economic and Social Advantages of Co-operation." The address was both inspiring and encouraging, touching many vital and important matters affecting present and future co-operation, and suggested remedies for apparent existing evils and new methods of meeting altered conditions. Education, tension, and prevalent uneasiness were briefly and pointedly dealt with. The Chairman thought the unrest was attributable to present-day teaching and altered conditions, while formerly co-operation succeeded wherever established, now much more forethought, guidance, and tact were needed to be successful. The discussion was maintained by the Chairman, Mr. King (Co-operative Wholesale Society), and Messrs. Hunt (Workington), Thomas (Egremont), and Riddle (Carlisle), who moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Clayton for his able address, seconded by Mr. Ismay (Maryport). Mr. Clayton replied and thanked the conference for their kindness.

The second conference assembled at Penrith on Saturday, 16th May, 1914, Mr. Hunt presiding in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. Graham. The attendance and interest were very good, considering that the place is at the extreme end of the district; nominations for executive

committee were read over. Mr. Clayton next addressed the conference, his subject being "An Outline of a Pamphlet suitable for giving to Members joining a Co-operative Society." A synopsis of the address had been previously prepared by Mr. Clayton, and a copy presented to each delegate present for guidance. The address was well received, lucid in details, well arranged, and thought out. Discussion was very good, the following taking part:—Mr. Hunt, who initiated, followed by Mr. King (Co-operative Wholesale Society), Messrs. Ismay, Eggleston, Walker, Murdoch (district representative), Riddle, and Kelly. On the motion of Mr. Murdoch, seconded by Mr. Mitchell (Egremont), it was agreed—

That this conference supports the idea of a paper on the outlines suggested, and agrees to recommend its committees to give such a paper to members joining societies.

Mr. Clayton was heartily thanked for his services.

The third and last conference for the year met in the Battersby Lecture Hall, Keswick, on Saturday, 22nd August, 1914, when it was anticipated Mr. W. R. Rae (Sunderland) would speak on "Federation," but owing to the war having intervened, it was deemed advisable to take the agenda being discussed the same day at a conference in Newcastle, dealing with matters likely to affect co-operation in a greater or lesser degree during the present crisis. The agenda suggested for consideration the treatment of (1) "Employés called up," (2) "Scarcity of Employment in Societies," (3) "Distress generally," and (4) "Prices and Dividends," with recommendations to each. Much discussion centred round the wages question, but eventually it was agreed that full wages, less army pay, ought to be given in preference to half-pay, especially where there were dependents. With reference to "Distress generally," it was felt many societies did not get proper representation on distress committees. It was eventually agreed to try and remedy this. On the question of "Uniform Dividends" opinions somewhat differed, as this matter apparently had been discussed previously by some of the societies, who had agreed upon the course of action they would take. Relative to the managers' question of meeting in Newcastle, it was deemed to add, "or at some chosen centre." Altogether this was a very interesting conference which brought out various opinions in dealing with matters considered more or less imperative. Mr. Rae was most cordially thanked for his kindness.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	23	19 3	By Local Conferences	8	16 0
„ Propaganda Fund	4	3 0	„ Delegation to Conferences	7	16 0
			„ Executive Meetings	6	19 7
			„ Postage, Stationery, &c.	0	7 8
			„ Cash in hand (Prop. Fund)	4	3 0
	£28	2 3		£28	2 3

JOHN STEPHENSON, Secretary.

No. 4.—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Isaac Nixon (chairman), West Stanley.	Mr. Geo. Greener, Prudhoe.
„ G. T. Egglestone (secretary), Hisehope Terrace, Consett.	„ E. Hargreaves, Newburn.
„ R. Steel, Throckley.	„ E. Y. Spencer, Swalwell.
	„ W. Harrison, Tantobie.

Mr. W. Scott, Blaydon, Sectional Representative.

In presenting the report of this district, it is gratifying to again be able to state that the conferences we have held during the year have been very well attended, and a great amount of interest has been taken in the various subjects dealt with, such as "Federation."

Our first conference was held at the Derwent Flour Mill on 21st March, 1914. Mr. A. Stoddart (president) welcomed the delegates to Shotley Bridge, one of the beauty spots of the North of England. Mr. Wm. Hewison (West Stanley), chairman of No. 4 District, presided over a large attendance, and after the usual preliminaries, introduced Mr. W. R. Rae (Sunderland) to give an address on "Federation," which he did in his usual able and efficient manner. An instructive and lively discussion followed, in which eight or nine delegates of great co-operative ability took part, also Mr. T. E. Shotton (Co-operative Wholesale Society). The chairman of the Derwent Flour Mill (Mr. A. Stoddart) moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting of delegates endorses the idea of "Federation," and requests the District Executive, along with the Sectional Board, to arrange a conference between the committees of the district to consider and agree on a plan for its realisation.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Our second conference was held in the Wesleyan Hall, Prudhoe, on 23rd May, 1914, Mr. W. Hewison presiding. There was a large number of delegates present. After the usual formula was passed, replies were received from committees to a circular sent out by instructions of a previous conference, when eight societies' committees reported themselves favourable to the principle of closer federation between societies in the district for the main purpose of minimising the evil consequences of overlapping and kindred evils, and assisting by combined effort to successfully meet the increasing competition from private competitors. One society asked for further particulars, one desired to consult the members, and eleven societies did not reply. Mr. Scott (sectional representative) then spoke on the subject of "Federation," after which a spirited discussion followed, when ten delegates took part, also Mr. Graham (Co-operative Wholesale Society). The nominations for officers and committee for the No. 4 District were then read. The secretary (Mr. G. T. Egglestone) was elected unopposed; chairman and committee to go to the poll. During February, the committee arranged for Mr. Wm. Hewison to spend two or three weeks in propaganda work at Alston.

to help that society in its struggles, which was carried out with some success. Three weeks were occupied in the endeavour. The expenses were borne by the No. 4 District propaganda fund and the Sectional Board. A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. Hewison for the work accomplished and the way in which it was carried out.

On 12th August, 1914, we arranged to hold a conference at West Stanley on 19th September; but as the war had broken out, the Sectional Board expressed a wish that we should postpone conferences, for a time at least. This we did, until on 3rd December we received a communication from the secretary of the Sectional Board stating that the question of holding district conferences might now be considered by district committees.

We then arranged our third conference, at West Stanley, on 30th January, 1915, when the Stanley Federated Bakeries was formally opened at the same time and place as the conference, in the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley. Mr. J. Nixon (president of the West Stanley Society and present chairman of the No. 4 District) gave a kindly welcome to all the delegates and visitors. Mr. A. Stoddart (president of the Consett Society and Derwent Flour Mill Society) in a rousing address formally opened the Federated Bakeries, pointing out that it was real co-operative federation on proper lines—a step worthy to be emulated by other societies for the success of the movement. This was followed by a well thought out and able address by Mr. Clayton on "Federation," of which the federation of the West Stanley Bakery is a triumphal victory for the movement. Mr. Clayton's paper and Mr. Stoddart's address were complimented on all sides, and it was ultimately unanimously agreed that Mr. Clayton's address be printed in pamphlet form and circulated amongst the members of the No. 4 District.

Votes of thanks to the entertaining societies, to the readers and writers of papers, and to the gentlemen who gave addresses, and the chairman, at each conference were duly tendered and accepted.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	17	7 5½	By Conferences	10	0 4
			„ Executive Meetings	6	19 6
			„ Postage.....	0	7 7½
	£17	7 5½		£17	7 5½

G. T. EGGLESTONE, Secretary.

No. 5.—EAST DURHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Thos. Wallace (chairman), Hebburn Colliery.	Mr. S. Bramley, Jarrow.
„ Thomas Ross (secretary), Felling.	„ A. D. Franks, Boldon Colliery.
„ W. Johnson, Birtley.	„ William Flynn, Gateshead.
	„ F. A. Christal, Sunderland.

Mr. W. R. Rae, Sunderland, Sectional Representative.

We have held but three conferences during the year. The attendance at each has been exceptionally good, and the interest in discussion in every way satisfactory.

The first conference was held at Haswell on 9th May, and was devoted to a discussion on the subject "Trusts and Combines," which was introduced by Mr. W. Clayton (sectional secretary). An interesting discussion ensued, in which the following gentlemen took part:—Messrs. Peter Lee, Joseph Bruce, T. Ross, and P. Coley; after which, Mr. Oliver (Gateshead) moved, and Mr. Atkinson (South Shields) seconded, the following resolution, which was carried with enthusiasm:—

That this conference instructs the district secretary to call a special district conference, within the next three months, to consider what may be agreed upon as a uniform dividend for the societies in No. 5 District, and that each delegate present hereby undertakes to do all in his power to urge his committee to take part in such conference.

In accordance with the above resolution, a special conference was held at Seaham Harbour on 27th June, and was devoted definitely to decide what might be considered a fair uniform dividend for the district. At the opening of the conference, Mr. Ross (district secretary) made a statement of the decision of previous conferences on the question of a better understanding between societies. He showed that a good deal of ground had been covered, and that there remained as a next step the subject set out on the agenda before the conference. Mr. Oliver (president of Gateshead Society) opened the discussion by moving—

That a 3s. dividend be considered a suitable uniform dividend for the societies in the district.

He suggested that things had moved but slowly towards the goal the conference had in view, but a big step forward was doubtless indicated by the definite character of the agenda before them. Mr. Dover (South Shields) seconded this resolution. Mr. Bruce (president of Chester-le-Street Society) moved as an amendment—

That 2s. 6d. be the rate agreed upon.

In support of this, Mr. Bruce said he considered that by making this figure the uniform dividend, societies would be able to compete with such opposition as they were having, and were likely to have, from the outside, and it would also enable a large number of people to trade with the societies that found it difficult to trade now because of the cost of goods. Mr. Knox (manager of Birtley Society) seconded the amendment. The discussion was carried on by Messrs. Rae (Central Board), Dobson (Marsden), Hancock (Gateshead), Hindmarsh (Sunderland), Taylor (Windy Nook), Young (Seaham Harbour), and Ross (district committee). On the names of the societies being called to vote on the rates submitted, the majority that responded were in favour of 2s. 6d. as a rate suitable for the district. There were, however, several societies which declared themselves neutral; but it was certainly encouraging

to notice the representatives from such societies as Chester-le-Street, Birtley, Gateshead, Seaham Harbour, South Shields, and Tyne Dock declaring themselves so definitely in favour of a uniform dividend.

At the close of the conference, a resolution was carried asking the Sectional Board to call a sectional conference, as early as possible, to consider a uniform rate for the whole section. The committee of No. 5 District consider that this subject has been carried as far in No. 5 as can be done until other districts take action in a similar way.

The third conference was held on the Pelaw Branch premises of the Boldon Co-operative Society. This was a particularly good conference, upwards of a hundred delegates being present. Mr. Ross (district secretary) submitted a paper on "The Co-operative Movement as Revealed by the War," in which he proceeded to show how much more definitely the movement had come to know itself in the crisis brought about by the war, and also how the Government had come to see the significance of the movement. Mr. Ross, in his paper, paid a tribute to the federal side of the movement, because of what it had done in somewhat keeping down prices, and he also referred to the significant fact that the capital invested by co-operators had been less intimidated by fear of loss than even the large sums of the private capitalist. At this conference also Mr. Rae submitted a paper on "Co-operation after the War," in which he proceeded to show that after the war the problem which would await us would be one of a financial and industrial character first, and a social and moral problem also. He proceeded to show that out of the financial impossibilities would arise the industrial hardships. Mr. Rae went on to prove this contention by showing how much of the capital spent on war was lost to production, and even destroyed productive capacity, and therefore resulted in the depreciation of all kinds of securities, and a general reduction of the world's capital. The discussion was carried on by Messrs. Oliver, Smith, Gascoigne, Taylor, Moore, Christal, Baldock, Flynn, Coley, Miss Webster, and Mrs. Coffer, at the close of which a resolution was passed protesting against the great advance that was taking place in the cost of freights and foodstuffs, and the secretary was instructed to bring the resolution to the notice of the Prime Minister.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	14	4 6	By Conferences	8	4 2
			„ Executive Meetings	6	0 4
	£14	4 6		£14	4 6

THOMAS ROSS, Secretary.

No. 6.—SOUTH DURHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. M. Price (chairman), Ferry Hill.

„ J. Craig (secretary), Durham.

„ Joseph Bell, Tow Law.

„ S. Whiteley, Langley Moor.

Mr. C. White, Hetton Downs.

„ T. Readshaw, Bishop Auckland.

„ Jas. Davison, Newbottle.

Mr. S. Galbraith, Durham, Sectional Representative.

Three conferences were held in this district during the year 1914 and were well attended, the several matters for consideration being well handled and good discussions arising.

The first conference was held at Coxhoe on the 28th February, 1914, Mr. M. Price presiding. Mr. W. Clayton (sectional secretary) delivered a spirited address on "Are we taking Full Advantage of the Economic and Social Advantages Co-operation Offers?" A good and intelligent discussion followed, taken part in by several delegates, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Clayton for his splendid address.

The second conference was held at Brandon and Byshottles on the 23rd May, 1914, Mr. M. Price presiding. Mr. Pearson (president of the society) read Mr. W. R. Rae's paper, "Federation," in a masterly manner, for which he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, as also was Mr. Rae for his splendid paper. After a good discussion, it was resolved—

That we approve the principle of federation, as outlined in Mr. Rae's paper.

The third conference was arranged to be held at Stanhope on the 22nd August, when Mr. Clayton's paper, "The Control of Prices by the Proprietary Articles Traders' Association," was to be read, but, owing to the outbreak of war, this conference was cancelled in favour of a sectional conference, held at Newcastle on the same date, *re* "Panic Prices."

The third conference was held at Bishop Auckland on 19th December, Mr. M. Price presiding. Mr. Shaw (president of Bishop Auckland Society) read Mr. W. H. Brown's (London) paper, "The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War." A highly educative discussion followed, taken part in by Mr. Readshaw (executive), who opened the discussion, Mr. Clayton (sectional secretary), Mr. English (Co-operative Wholesale Society), Hetton Downs delegate, and several others. A most enthusiastic vote of thanks was given to Mr. Shaw for so ably reading the paper.

It was decided to continue the conferences in this district during the war as before, and to hold next conference at West Cornforth, as invited.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office.....	11	3 0	By Executive Meetings.....	5	5 9
			„ Conferences	3	17 4
			„ Delegations	1	9 5
			„ Postages	0	10 6
	£11	3 0		£11	3 0

J. CRAIG, Secretary.

NO. 7.—SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Liddle (chairman), West Hartlepool.	Mr. J. Cottrell, Guisbrough.
„ J. Hind (secretary), Middlesbrough.	„ W. R. Tennet, West Hartlepool.
„ T. W. Brown, Darlington.	„ T. Searth, Stockton.
	„ Turnbull, Loftus.

Mr. Geo. Bedford, Middlesbrough, Sectional Representative.

Two conferences have been held during the year 1914.

The first conference was held at Stockton on 21st February, at which 150 delegates were present. Mr. Clayton (sectional secretary) gave a splendid and instructive address, subject: "Are we making Full Use of the Economic and Social Advantages which Co-operation Offers?" Mr. Clayton said that we, to-day, have greater social comforts and higher wages than any previous generation, yet unrest was greater than any experienced during the past two hundred years. What are the causes? The worker to-day is better educated, knows more than his predecessors, and therefore recognises that, comparatively with his employers, he is not better off. He sees, too, that the result of scientific invention and labour saving appliances are not benefiting him to the same extent as they are benefiting his employer. The employer is recognising the value of the co-operative method and is using it for his own ends, and so we have trusts, combines, &c. What are the objections to the trusts? That they enable the owners to control prices, to drive harder bargains with their employés, and that the benefits go to the few shareholders. As a movement, co-operation started putting down a shop here and there; finally, they have grown together until they are in each other's way, and are spending money needlessly, and the increase is becoming a serious tax on their trade. Economically their principles were right, but some of their methods needed improvement. Socially, too, it could be shown that the principles of co-operation could be used just as effectively. They were attacking the social problem through industry; were recognising that £1,000 spent collectively would do more for us socially than the distribution to 1,000 individuals. Co-operation, in one form or other, would be the method of the future; probably in three forms—State, municipal, and voluntary associations. The first step for co-operators would be the solidification of our own societies. The discussion was an interesting one, many of the delegates taking part.

The second conference was held at Brompton, under the auspices of the Northallerton Society, on 23rd May. There were seventy-five delegates and visitors present. Mr. Geo. Bedford (sectional representative) read Mr. Wolff's paper entitled "What can Co-operation do for our Agricultural Classes?" The conference being held in an agricultural district, the paper evoked a lively and good discussion. The statistical report by Mr. Turnbull was read by Mr. Tennet (executive) and was well received.

Arrangements were made for the third conference to be held at Thirsk on 29th August, but, on the suggestion of the Northern Sectional Board, it was decided that, owing to the war, the conference should not be held. The winter conference was not held for the same reason.

Thanks were given to Messrs. Clayton, Bedford, and Tennet for their services, and to Mr. Turnbull for his interesting statistical report, and to the inviting societies for the entertainment provided.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office.....	18	11 11	By Conferences	8	14 7
			„ Executive Meetings	8	16 9
			„ Postage, &c.	1	0 7
	£18	11 11		£18	11 11

JOHN HIND, Secretary,

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

CLASSES.

Juniors	2,116
Intermediate	127
Book-keeping	74
Co-operation	30
Classes for Women Co-operators	39

The gold bangle was won by Miss M. Scollick, with 118 marks, and the medal by Master H. W. Sykes, with 115 marks.

CONFERENCES.

The first was held at South Shields in March, when "An Outline of a Pamphlet suitable for placing into the hands of Members joining a Co-operative Society" was given by Mr. Clayton.

The second was held at Richmond, when Mr. E. F. Morton put before the meeting "The Aims and Objects of the Students' Fellowship," and Mr. Clayton the question of "Children's Classes and their Value." After tea, Mr. Allsop (Darlington) kindly acted as guide to places of interest in and around Richmond.

Owing to the war, there was no conference held in September, but in November there was one held at North Shields, when Mr. W. Youngs read a very suggestive paper on "A Future of Co-operative Education."

All of them were well attended, and profitable discussions took place.

About 400 children students from classes held at Pegswood, Hartlepool, Ashington, Sunderland, and Boldon, visited Newcastle on the 27th June for the purpose of being shown over the premises of the Co-operative Wholesale Society at Newcastle, and so were given a practical object lesson on co-operation. They were received by Mr. T. E. Shotton, the oldest member of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's directorate, who gave them a very appropriate address. After some music, suitable talks were given by Messrs. W. Youngs (Ashington), W. R. Tennet (Hartlepool), and W. Hogg (Jarrow). After tea, Mr. R. Shepherd lectured to them on "Soap," outlining and illustrating by lantern slides the various processes of manufacture.

EASTER WEEK-END, 1914.

We had the good fortune to have this annual gathering of the members of the Students' Fellowship and the National Men's Guild at Saltburn, the

arrangements for which being in the hands of the Central Education Committee, the Educational Committees' Association, the Students' Fellowship, and Middlesbrough Society. The proceedings thereat were characterised by enthusiasm, the papers and addresses—especially those of Dr. Jevons and Mr. J. Dover Wilson, M.A.—being an intellectual treat, and from a social point of view the advantages were equally satisfactory. Old acquaintances were renewed, new ones made, and students gathered there from every part of England returned to their work with strengthened incentives to carry the movement one step nearer its ideal.

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

The Race Week excursion last year was, from point of view of numbers and the objects for which such an excursion is organised, a distinct success. In all, there were some fifty-six persons paid a visit to the Hague, Antwerp, and Brussels.

On the Thursday we were entertained by the directors of the *Maison du Peuple*. Speeches were made by the chairman of that society, Mr. Serwy, and others, whilst the undersigned replied on behalf of the visitors. One and all made reference to the influence of the movement in the direction of international peace and concord, little dreaming that in five weeks' time Belgium would be overrun by an army which, amongst its soldiers, must have had many German co-operators.

It is doubtful if we will be able to arrange a foreign excursion this year. If this is impossible, it is suggested that a week's tour by steamer on the West Coast of Scotland might be substituted; but even in regard to this we are informed that it will be impossible for some time to say whether or not we can be accommodated.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Chapman was, for many years, one of the most hard-working guildswomen in the Northern Section, and at the time of her death, which took place on 24th April, was a member of the sectional council, secretary of the Benwell Guild, and the representative of the section on the Educational Committees' Association. For seventeen years she was a member of the Benwell School Board, and when the schools were taken over by the council, was co-opted on the City Education Committee.

Mr. Thos. Howe, after a lingering illness, passed away in February of this year. For twenty years he was general president of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, an office he filled with exceptional ability. His prudence and statesmanlike ability made him one of the most useful members of the executive, and his place will not be easily filled. He was for many years manager of the tailoring department of the Sunderland Society, though for the last ten years he occupied a similar position with the Co-operative Wholesale Society at their Pelaw Works. He had an intensely sympathetic nature, a broad outlook, and lived and worked for

the social improvement of the community. He represented the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés on the Educational Committees' Association.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance forward	75	8 7	By Committee's Fees and Fares	4	11 6
„ Subscriptions	52	17 9	„ Conference Expenses	11	14 1
			„ Annual Subscriptions —		
			Co-operative Union	0	10 0
			International Co-op Alliance..	0	12 0
			„ Prizes	3	18 6
			„ Workers' Educational Association	3	17 7
			„ Expenses — Centenary Educa-		
			tional Committee	6	19 6
			„ Miscellaneous Expenses	1	1 9
			„ Balance in Bank	94	16 2
			„ Cash in hand	0	5 3
	£128	6 4		£128	6 4

W. CLAYTON, Secretary.

(4) NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Eleven meetings of the Sectional Board have been held during the year at which the attendance has been as follows:—

	Present.	Sick.	On Deputation.
E. Booth	11	—	—
E. Derbyshire	7	—	—
W. Dewhurst	10	—	1
S. Fairbrother	11	—	—
S. R. Foster	11	—	—
G. Goodenough	11	—	—
J. Greenwood	11	—	—
W. Gregory	11	—	—
J. W. Hargreaves.....	10	1	—
S. C. Hughes	11	—	—
*J. Johnston	7	—	—
J. Lowe	2	—	—
J. Morrell	9	2	—
J. Pollitt	11	—	—
T. Redfearn	10	1	—
J. Staynes.....	9	2	—
H. Stuttard	11	—	—
W. Swindlehurst.....	9	2	—
J. Thompson	11	—	—
B. Woolfenden	11	—	—
A. J. Wroe.....	11	—	—

Hon. Members:—	Present.	Sick.	Absent.
C. J. Beckett.....	—	—	11
G. Wheelhouse	2	—	9

* Abroad four months, suffering from insomnia.

At the first meeting held after Congress the following appointments were made, viz.:—

Chairman: Mr. W. Dewhurst.

Vice-chairman: Mr. W. Gregory.

Boundaries Sub-committee: Messrs. *E. Derbyshire, J. Greenwood, J. W. Hargreaves, S. C. Hughes, J. Johnston, J. Morrell, J. Pollitt, J. Staynes, W. Swindlehurst, J. Thompson, B. Woolfenden, and A. J. Wroe.

United Board: Messrs. W. Gregory, W. Dewhurst, **J. Lowe**, H. Stuttard, and T. Redfearn.

Office Committee: Messrs. W. Dewhurst, **J. Lowe**, and W. Gregory.

Education Committee: Messrs. E. Booth and S. Fairbrother.

Propaganda Committee: Messrs. G. Goodenough and S. R. Foster.

North-Western Educational Committees' Association.—Mr. B. Woolfenden.

Anti-Credit Committee: Messrs. S. Fairbrother, J. Johnston, J. Pollitt, J. Staynes, and J. Thompson.

* Acting in place of Mr. Gregory, who was, on the death of Mr. J. Lowe, appointed to the United Board.

PROGRESS IN THE SECTION.

Notwithstanding the unfortunate outbreak of hostilities on the Continent of Europe, and the consequent unsettled state of affairs in the United Kingdom, the trade of societies in this section has been well maintained, as is revealed by the figures given below.

In spite of many difficulties experienced by our buyers in obtaining supplies, the movement has been to a great extent instrumental in keeping down prices. This has been recognised by Cabinet Ministers, and our action during the present crisis has on more than one occasion been commended. If it were not for the existence of our movement the profitmongers would undoubtedly be reaping an even richer harvest at the expense of the workers.

Prior to the outbreak of war a considerable amount of short time was worked, especially in the cotton manufacturing and weaving centres; in fact it is impossible to mention a weaving district, or a section of manufacture, that has done consistently well during the year. Therefore considering the exceptional circumstances that have prevailed it is remarkable that the section should show such substantial progress.

The following is summary of the position of the section up to 31st December last:—

	1913.		1914.		Increase.	Percentage Increase.
Societies	466	..	465	..	*1	.. —
Members	1,160,152	..	1,216,129	..	45,977	.. 3.10
	£		£		£	
Share Capital	17,583,405	..	18,192,632	..	609,227	.. 3.46
Sales	33,928,894	..	34,507,293	..	578,399	.. 1.70
Profits	5,317,933	..	5,361,336	..	43,403	.. .81
<i>Number of Employés.</i>						
Distributive	26,553	..	26,424	..	*129	.. 2.49
Productive	11,814	..	11,867	..	53	.. .45

* Decrease.

The operations of the Co-operative Wholesale and Co-operative Insurance Societies are not included in the above figures.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES

On account of the unsettled state of the country, the Board agreed to curtail as much as possible the holding of sectional conferences, therefore two only have been held during the year.

The first was held at Huddersfield on Saturday, 30th January, under the auspices of the local society, and was attended by a large number of delegates. Mr. Percy Redfern (Manchester) prepared and introduced as the subject for discussion a paper entitled "Ideas of Progress in Co-operation." He said: "To me it seems essential that a consumers' section of the Union, together with the C.W.S., should have power not necessarily to coerce backward societies, for that might only be done in special cases with special authority, but to exercise oversight, to study and recommend, and to organise the acceptance, say, of fixed prices in certain cases, or of joint advertising, or of improved stocks, and whatever proves necessary to win support across the counter. The local principle should be reinforced by social action, and, in return, the local ability should supplement the initiative of the central power." His suggestion that it would easily be possible for the two Wholesales and the Co-operative Union to take over the Newspaper Society and continue it as the special publishing and central bookselling society of the whole movement came in for very severe criticism; in fact the paper generally created a good discussion, to which the writer suitably replied.

At this conference reference was made to the abandonment of the sectional demonstration which, had normal conditions prevailed, would have been held at Windhill (Shipley). The committee of the Windhill Society desire their invitation to hold good, so that if it is decided to go forward with a demonstration for 1915 it will be held under their auspices.

In addition to the above, it was reported that it was the turn of the North-Western Section to entertain the Congress of 1916, and the option of issuing invitations rested with societies in Lancashire. The Board thought it advisable that societies should send forward their invitations to the conference so that the delegates could express an opinion regarding which invitation should go forward to the Leicester Congress. Lancaster Society, however, was the only society to send in an invitation, and Mr. A. Varley (secretary) gave the delegates some particulars of the favourable conditions which Lancaster enjoyed, and the accommodation which could be provided for a gathering of this kind. The conference ultimately decided to support the invitation.

The second conference, which was the annual conference, was held at Halifax on Saturday, 17th April, at which the sectional and district reports were considered.

SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE.

In accordance with custom the Board, with the assistance of the Secretaries' Association, held a special conference for the benefit of co-operative secretaries. This was held on Saturday, 14th November, 1914, under the auspices of the Barnsley British Co-operative Society, when Mr. A. Varley (president of the Secretaries' Association) introduced, in a very able paper, the subject of

"Co-operative Finance as Affected by the War." The subject was a very timely one, and an interesting discussion took place. Mr. Varley pointed out that although the movement was interlaced in many ways with the general commercial community, its difficulties are not of the same nature. Our weakness is mainly to be found in our withdrawable share capital. A condition of general panic would have a detrimental effect upon us, and if our reserves are unequal to the strain, would cause such a feeling of insecurity as would jeopardise our very existence. Our financial stability depends very largely upon the stability and permanence of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

MEETING WITH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES.

On Saturday, 7th November, the Sectional Board met representatives from the district associations throughout the section, when Mr. G. Goodenough, on behalf of the Board, introduced the question of the grant to the Women's Guild. A lengthy and animated discussion took place, and the following resolution was passed, viz. :—

That, in view of the resolution of the Central Board, passed at its meeting on Saturday, 19th September, this joint meeting of representatives from District Associations and the North-Western Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union Limited, recommend the Executive Committees of the Conference Associations throughout the section to bring, by means of conferences, the conditions embodied in such resolution before the societies in their respective districts.

In addition to the above, Mr. J. Pollitt introduced the resolutions passed at the Dublin Congress with regard to the amalgamation of societies and "Co-operation with other Forces," and briefly outlined how the districts were expected to deal with same.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

The questions of "Co-operation with other Forces" and "Grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild" have been discussed at district conferences during the year, and so far as the latter is concerned, in almost every instance, the attitude of the Central Board has been endorsed. We therefore submit for your consideration the following resolution, which we propose to send forward to the United Board for submission to the Leicester Congress :—

RESOLUTION.

That we endorse the policy hitherto pursued by the Central Board, as the administrative authority of Congress, and confirm its right to withhold grants from any organisation which, in its opinion, is pursuing a policy detrimental to the best interests of the co-operative movement.

To ascertain, as far as possible, the opinion of the movement with regard to the question of "Co-operation with other Forces," the district associations were

also requested to arrange for this to be discussed at conferences. A pamphlet containing a full report of the proceedings at the meetings of representatives of the three bodies, viz., Trades Union Parliamentary Committee, Labour Party, and the Co-operative Union, has been prepared and freely circulated throughout the movement. Judging by the results of the voting it is evident that societies are opposed to any union whatever with political forces. This question will again be brought forward at the forthcoming Congress, to be held at Leicester in Whit-week next, and full particulars of the voting throughout the country will be given in the report to be submitted to Congress.

SECTIONAL DEMONSTRATION.

The war has been responsible for the abandonment of the usual choir contests and junior demonstration, but, notwithstanding this, we are glad to report an increase in the membership of the Choral Association, four new members having been admitted during the year, which now brings the membership up to 36.

Although the contests have not been held, the choirs have continued their work as usual. There is certainly no art which inspires so much delight in all classes of society in every part of the world as choral music. Even among those nations which have but an imperfect idea of a Supreme Being, music, either vocal or instrumental, forms an integral element of social enjoyment and religious worship.

However much one may know in all other branches of art, he will scarcely find anything so available as music. It is music alone which is called into exercise as a means of enjoyment in which all can join.

In consequence of the demonstration being abandoned, a circular-letter was sent to all the societies contributing to the Demonstration Fund asking if they would allow their contributions to be retained and carried forward to the fund to be raised for the 1915 demonstration. We are pleased to report that every society agreed, and the sum now standing to the credit of the Demonstration Fund amounts to £300.

The annual meeting of the Choral Association was held in the Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Manchester, under the auspices of the Manchester and Salford Society on Saturday, 27th February, 1915. Madame Georgia Pearce (Manchester) gave an interesting and inspiring address on "Choral Music," and she aroused the imagination of the delegates many times, especially when she said: "What a grand musical movement you can make of it. You are so powerful and well organised, you could make all England sing if you choose. You could make a merry England of it."

Although the association records an increase in membership, it is far from satisfactory in a section which is the largest and most wealthy of any other section in the co-operative movement. We therefore strongly urge upon those societies which are not affiliated to identify themselves with the association, whether they have choirs or not.

BOUNDARIES' COMMITTEE.

This committee has again been active during the period under review. Many cases of overlapping have been dealt with, and we are pleased to say that in several instances it has been able to establish more peaceful and cordial relations between societies.

The following is a list of the cases dealt with :—

- (a) *Cefn' and Chirk Societies.*—A letter having been received from the Chirk and District Society complaining of overlapping by the Cefn Society, meetings have been held with the respective committees, and a visit has also been paid to the districts covered by these societies. Both committees, we are glad to say, agreed to leave the matter entirely in our hands, and pledged themselves to accept whatever award was given. The spirit displayed by both committees throughout the whole of the negotiations was very commendable, and if only the same spirit would prevail in all cases of this character, overlapping would soon be removed from our midst. Boundary agreements have been prepared and signed by both parties.
- (b) *Handsworth Woodhouse and Masbro' Societies.*—Particulars of this case were given in our previous report. Further meetings have been held, and a deputation has been over the district in dispute, but owing to the attitude taken up by one of the societies the negotiations were broken off.
- (c) *Barnsley and Pontefract Societies.*—Negotiations with regard to this case have been going on for some considerable time owing to the many difficulties which have presented themselves, and also on account of the Pontefract Society not being affiliated with the Union. After many months of patient work, however, we are glad to report that a mutual arrangement has now been arrived at. Agreements are in course of preparation.
- (d) *Macclesfield, Stockport, and Styal Societies.*—The attitude adopted by the committees of these societies is worthy of special mention. In order to prevent any possible overlapping in a district where developments are likely to be made, the Boundaries' Committee was invited to consider along with them the question of lines of demarcation. In consequence of this timely action, very little difficulty was experienced in making satisfactory arrangements. Agreements have been prepared and duly completed.
- (e) *Barnsley and Doncaster Societies.*—Arising out of a complaint made by the Doncaster Society against Barnsley in purchasing land in a district known as Highgate, a deputation was appointed to wait upon the committees of the societies, and also make a survey of the district. Many meetings have been held, and at the last meeting, held in the Board room of the Barnsley Society, a resolution agreeing to a boundary was passed. Since then, however, the

Barnsley Society has reported that, owing to important additional information having reached them, they cannot see their way to adhere to the resolution. Under the circumstances, we have to report that the negotiations have ended unsatisfactorily.

- (f) *Eccles and Pendleton Societies.*—This is a very serious case. Some years ago the committees of these societies agreed upon a boundary within which the business of each society should be carried on, and an agreement was drawn up and duly signed by both parties. For some reason or other, however, the Pendleton Society has thought fit to break the treaty, and opened a Branch in the district which, according to the terms of the agreement, was assigned to the Eccles Society. This matter is receiving the attention of the Boundaries' Committee and we are hopeful of a satisfactory settlement being arrived at.

AMALGAMATION.

Efforts have been made to bring about the unification of co-operative enterprise in Chesterfield and district, and with this object in view meetings have been held with the committees of the Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Hasland, and Pilsley societies. The former society being situate in the Midland Section, it was necessary to secure the support of the Midland Sectional Board. This, however, was very readily given, and representatives were appointed to act with this section.

At the first meeting the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the four societies represented here to-day should separately consider the prudence and duty of an equitable amalgamation or federation at the earliest possible date.

At a later meeting held at Chesterfield on Saturday, the 24th October, which was convened to receive and consider the reports of each committee, a further resolution was passed, the terms of which are:—

That this meeting of the Boards of Management of the Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Hasland and Pilsley societies is of opinion that the time is opportune for immediate steps to be taken to bring about a better consolidation of co-operation in this district, and with this object in view recommends the societies to convene as early as possible special meetings of their members in order to lay before them the advantages of amalgamation. Also that each representative present pledges himself to use his personal influence in this direction.

In accordance with this resolution special meetings of members of each society were held, but unfortunately two societies only, viz., Chesterfield and Clay Cross, received instructions to continue negotiations. Owing to the altered circumstances thus created, another meeting of the committees was convened, when, after carefully reviewing the altered position, it was decided that Chesterfield and Clay Cross should go forward with amalgamation. The necessary steps are now being taken with this object in view.

For some time there has been a growing desire for the amalgamation of the two Liverpool societies, viz., City of Liverpool and Toxteth, and we are pleased to report that this has now been accomplished.

The consolidation of co-operative interests has also been established at Lees (Oldham) by the amalgamation of the Lees Provident Society with the Oldham Equitable Society.

SECTIONAL PROPAGANDA.

A special committee representing the Sectional Board and district associations within the section, has been formed to undertake the work of propaganda. A meeting of the full committee was held at Manchester, on 16th January, when reports were presented showing the position of co-operation, &c., in each district. The reports revealed the fact that there was a large amount of overlapping in the section, so it has been decided to enter upon an active campaign to, if not abolish it altogether, prevent if at all possible the spread of this evil.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL.

The Parks Committee of the Manchester City Council still refuse to allow co-operators to have the use of public parks in which to hold meetings. We are in touch with the Local Government Board with regard to the proposed amendments of the City Council to the Bye Laws governing Public Parks and Pleasure Grounds, and are hoping to secure a modification of same. Owing to the abnormal condition of affairs throughout the country, however, we have agreed not to vigorously prosecute our demands until a more opportune time.

SALESMEN'S CLASSES.

Notwithstanding the outbreak of war, and many of our employes joining the colours, we have to report an increase in the number of classes established for the study of "Salesmanship." The following is a list of the centres:—Burslem, Bradford, Dewsbury, Leeds, Nelson, Oldham, Manchester, Buckley, Liverpool, and Sheffield.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

Seaside Home.—Blackpool: The attendance at this Home during the past year has been fairly satisfactory. On war being declared at the beginning of August, the number of applications for accommodation were somewhat curtailed; but, nevertheless, there has been an increase of convalescents over the previous year. It should be borne in mind, however, that the Home was closed for alterations for the first five months of 1913, so that it is not possible to get a true estimate. The figures are as follows:—

	1914.		1913.		Inc.
Recommends Received	1,621	..	1,183	..	438
Extra Weeks	349½	..	249¾	..	99¾

Inland Home.—Otley: Last year the Association was in the happy position of being able to report a large increase of convalescents at this

Home over 1912. This increase, however, has not been maintained, as is evident by a perusal of the following figures, viz :—

	1914.	1913.	Dec.
Recommends Received	361 ..	579 ..	218
Extra Weeks	102 ..	155 ..	53

The decrease in attendance is no doubt partially due to the fact that, owing to alterations, the Blackpool Home was closed for five months at the beginning of 1913. Notwithstanding this, however, the attendance at the Home should be greater than it is, and we would earnestly urge societies to do what lies in their power to make the place better known amongst their members.

BELGIAN REFUGEES.

Arising out of circumstances created by the war, the committee of the Association, early in October, had requests from the Otley local authorities to place the Home at their disposal for (1) convalescent soldiers, or (2) Belgian refugees. Seeing, however, that a co-operative fund for the relief of Belgian refugees was being organised by the Co-operative Union, it was considered more advisable, if a grant could be obtained from this fund, ourselves to arrange for refugees to be accommodated at the Home.

In view of the fact that for at least six months in each year there are never more than half a dozen convalescents in the Home, and also that accommodation for the refugees was urgently demanded, it was thought by the committee that the members of the Association would not object to such a course being taken. On an intimation being given by the Union that they were willing to place a sum of £500 at the disposal of the Association, arrangements were at once made for a number of refugees to be received at the Home. There are now thirty-four persons in residence, three of whom were employed by the Belgian Co-operative Wholesale Society, whilst several of the others are also co-operators.

LATE MEXBRO' AND THORNES SOCIETIES.

In 1904 a special appeal was made for contributions to a fund established for the purpose of relieving the distress caused by the collapse of these societies. The sum of £2,931. 11s. 1d. was subscribed by 225 societies, and three distributions were made at each place, leaving a balance in hand of £115. 2s. 4d. This has been allowed to remain at the bank, until now it amounts to £136. 14s. 2d.

The special committee which was appointed to administer the fund recommended that the balance be transferred to the fund to be raised to assist the unfortunate co-operative societies in Belgium and North-East France. At the annual Conference held at Halifax, on Saturday, 17th April, however, the Board, owing to important information having been supplied by Barnsley Society, agreed for the matter to be referred back for reconsideration.

WEEK-END AT BLACKPOOL.

The committee of the Convalescent Homes Association again placed at the disposal of the Sectional Board the Blackpool Convalescent Home for the

second week-end gathering of co-operators resident in the section. There was a good attendance, and a very enjoyable week-end was spent. Lectures were given by Professor F. E. Weiss (Acting Vice-Chancellor, Manchester University), Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P. (Manchester), and were highly appreciated by all present. Professor F. Hall (Belfast), who was also down to give a lecture, was prevented from attending on account of the withdrawal of the sailings from Ireland. To overcome this difficulty, however, he sent his address, and Mr. E. Booth (Wooldale) was appointed by the Board to read it.

PROPRIETARY ARTICLES 'TRADERS' ASSOCIATION.

The co-operative movement, by this time, is used to most forms of opposition, but the demands and attitude of the Proprietary Articles Traders' Association are above the ordinary. They demand, in short, that societies sell the goods on their list at prices to be fixed by them. In fact they ask societies to sign an agreement that they will charge these prices. This is contrary to the policy of the movement, and a joint committee representing the Northern and North-Western sections was formed to consider the best course to frustrate their efforts. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Directors of the Wholesale Society to ascertain what assistance they could offer, and after full investigation it was found that they were already manufacturing substitutes for many of the articles on the P.A.T.A. list. A circular-letter was also sent to all societies in the movement, but owing to the nature of the replies received the matter has been allowed to drop for the present.

GENERAL.

The Hours and Wages Boards, which have been established in most of the districts to deal with the demands of the A.U.C.E., have in many cases been successful in arranging terms mutually satisfactory to societies and employes. At the time when these boards were being inaugurated a great deal was said with regard to their utility, but perhaps the doubts which were then expressed will now be removed.

Special conferences for the discussion of matters directly affecting societies during the war have been held by the various district associations; in some instances for the purpose of securing uniformity in the retail prices of goods, and payment of wages to employes who have joined the colours. In one or two cases districts have been divided into areas, and the committees and managers of societies in each area or group have taken counsel together when important matters have arisen, and these arrangements have proved very helpful to the societies.

A special committee representing the Midland, North-Western, and Western Sectional Boards, appointed to consider the position of societies in Shropshire and Mid-Wales, has met on several occasions, and after careful investigation unanimously recommend that the old association, known as the Shropshire and Mid-Wales Conference Association, be resuscitated. Instead, however, of the district being under the supervision of the three sections

conjointly, as formerly, they suggest that it be controlled entirely by the Midland Sectional Board.

The societies situate in Mid-Wales and a portion of Shropshire are prevented on many occasions, owing to the poor railway facilities, from being represented at conferences and other co-operative gatherings; hence the above recommendation.

During the year we have assisted in the formation of two new societies, the prospects of which appear to be very encouraging.

The following societies have also joined the Union during the period under review, viz. :—Holiday Fellowship Association; Hinchliffe Mill; Llanfairlechuan, Manchester and District Farmers' Association; and Shelley.

The subscriptions received from societies in the section for 1914 amount to £6,380. 16s. 8d.

OBITUARY.

We regret to report that during the year the movement has lost by death four most sincere workers, viz. :—Mr. J. Lowe (Crewe), Mr. J. Shillito (Halifax), Mr. J. Lloyd (Leeds), and Mr. J. Moore (Lancaster)

Mr. J. Lowe was, up to the time of his death, a member of the Sectional Board; Mr. J. Shillito, twenty years the chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society; Mr. J. Lloyd, director of the Co-operative Newspaper Society; and Mr. J. Moore, president of the Lancaster and District Co-operative Society, and president of the North Lancashire District Conference Association. The movement is certainly the poorer by the loss of such ardent and unselfish workers, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of the services which they have so perseveringly and ungrudgingly given to the cause of co-operation.

“They fought the good fight.”

VACANCY ON THE BOARD.

Owing to the demise of Mr. J. Lowe, a vacancy was created on the Board. Nomination and voting papers were therefore issued to the Societies members of the Union in Macclesfield, Crewe, and district, and Mr. E. Derbyshire (Crewe), having obtained the highest number of votes, was elected to serve the unexpired time of Mr. J. Lowe.

W. DEWHURST, Chairman.

J. BRADSHAW, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No 1.—AIREDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Mitchell (chairman), Keighley.	Mr. E. Hyde, Windhill.
„ M. Hopwood (secretary), Bradford.	„ J. C. Gration, Leeds.
„ W. A. Haigh, Great Horton.	„ H. Holden, Denholme.

Representative on the Sectional Board : Mr. S. R. Foster, Bingley.

In presenting our report for 1914, we regret to say that, owing to the sudden outbreak of war amongst the nations of Europe, culminating in a struggle of unparalleled magnitude, our conference work has been somewhat restricted. Only three conferences were held in the district during the year.

The first one was held at Queensbury on Saturday, 14th February, at the invitation of the Queensbury Society. Mr. E. Hyde read Mr. J. Johnston's paper entitled "How best to Secure the Solidarity and Permanent Success of Societies in the Movement."

The annual conference was held at Lees and Cross Roads on Saturday, 9th May, 1914, under the auspices of the Lees and Cross Roads Society. After the presentation of the district report and financial statement and election of officers for the year, Mr. C. H. Brown (Keighley) read his paper entitled "The Employé and the Movement."

The third and last conference was held at Birkenshaw on Saturday, 8th August, 1914, at the invitation of the Birkenshaw Industrial Society. Mr. A. Illingworth read a paper on "Co-operation and Progress." Mr. John Hopkinson (president) in opening the conference, said he could not refrain from alluding to the gloom that overshadowed the nation at that moment owing to the conflict of arms that had been forced upon Europe. However, he trusted the conflict would soon end, and in the meantime he felt sure that co-operators, as a body, would do their best to mitigate the distress and suffering that were bound to follow in the wake of such a struggle. In so far as rendering all possible help towards achieving that end, we feel the situation has been fully met, and in that result we may with pardonable pride say that the movement had done its duty in many aspects.

The societies in the district have experienced many difficulties during the latter half of the year. Increasing prices and congestion of traffic are hampering trading operations. In spite of those inevitable drawbacks, we feel that progress is being made in the district.

The productive societies—the Airedale Manufacturing and the Bradford Cabinet Makers—have felt the full effects of the backwash of the war, still both societies report a very decided improvement in trade after October, the turnover almost reaching the normal in both cases.

We hope for a successful and speedy termination of hostilities, and then the societies may expect a normal state of prices and of trade to prevail.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand.....	13	14 0	By Balance due	7	14 0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	14	16 2	„ Executive Meetings	4	1 11
			„ Conferences and other Meetings.	5	7 6
			„ Joint Meetings	2	17 3
			„ Hours and Wages Board	0	2 0
			„ General Printing	0	2 6
			„ Stationery	0	2 0
			„ Postages	0	17 0
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	1	6 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6	0 0
	£28	10 2		£28	10 2

M. HORWOOD, Secretary.

No. 2.—BOLTON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Thomas Barlow (chairman), Farnworth.	Mr. A. G. Richardson, Radcliffe.
„ Jas. Monks (secretary), 96, Pennington Road, Great Lever, Bolton.	„ David Moore, Walkden.
„ John Horrocks, Bolton.	„ Thos. H. Orrell, Horwich.
	„ Ernest Wallwork, Westhoughton.
	„ William Skitt, Tyldesley.

Educational Committees' Representative : Mr. Richard Clegg, Bolton.

Sectional Representative : Mr. S. Fairbrother, Bolton.

It is again our pleasing duty to present to you a report of the working of the association during the past year. Judging from the balance sheets of societies to hand, co-operation is continuing to make steady progress in the district. As the years roll on, we still see the greater necessity of opportunities to meet together in open conference, to discuss not only questions affecting the movement as a whole, but questions affecting us as a district. There appears to be a feeling that the time has arrived for joint action in many matters which will tend to consolidate the work of co-operation in the district.

The executive committee have, at the request of the Sectional Board, prepared a statement regarding overlapping. From the returns to hand it is evident that this evil is not so prevalent as to cause alarm. We should, however, like to see this evil eliminated altogether, and would point out the success that has attended the efforts of societies in the district which have recently amalgamated. Therein lies the remedy for overlapping. Wherever possible we would strongly advise societies to amalgamate. If this cannot be done, then we recommend a conference of the societies concerned to come to some amicable arrangement whereby the cut-throat policy can be averted and co-operation really be what it is intended for—a fuller understanding of the working classes for their own amelioration. We want societies to regard the association as a help to the work in which they are

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1913	14	11 1	By Conferences and other Meetings.	2	19 5
„ Cash from Societies in District			„ Wages and Hours Board	1	1 9
(Subscriptions)	11	15 0	„ Congress	5	6 0
			„ Postages	0	16 6
			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	14	2 5
Andited—					
W. BENTLEY.					
	£26	6 1		£26	6 1

JAS. MONKS, Secretary.

No. 3.—CALDERDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Charles Wood (chairman), Rastrick.	Mr. M. Clegg, Halifax.
„ A. Binns (secretary), 20, Dean Lane, Sowerby, Sowerby Bridge.	„ T. Ellison, Hebden Bridge.
Mr. J. W. Crabtree, Todmorden.	„ J. Laurence, Sowerby Bridge.
	„ J. Thorp, Halifax.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Jos. Greenwood, Hebden Bridge.

The work of the Calderdale District Association for the year 1914 has been brought to a close, and as we review the situation we are forced to admit that a better feeling appears to prevail.

A commencement was made with conference work at Mytholmroyd on 14th March, when the subject under discussion was "The Voting Power at the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Meetings," which was introduced by Mr. W. Hibbert (Failsworth). The *pros* and *cons* were thoroughly brought out in the discussion that followed.

From here we travelled to the hillside, viz., Midgley, for the annual conference on 11th July, when, as is usual, the election of officers took place, after which Mr. S. Fairbrother (Sectional Board) read his paper on "The Dangers to be avoided in the Co-operative Movement." A timely paper, but one not yet thoroughly ripe for final decision, and, as usual, some were and some were not in favour of such action. However, as the question is now taking the form of other forces, comment would be useless upon such a theme.

To the Lancashire end of Calderdale we paid our next visit, viz., Todmorden Society, when the subject for discussion was one arising out of the terrible war that is now engaging almost the whole of Europe, and was divided into the following points, viz.:—(1) Prices and supply of goods; (2) The advisability of reducing prices and paying smaller dividends; (3) Withdrawal of capital; (4) Assistance to members in distress; and (5) Appointment of co-operative representatives on distress committees. Needless to say, such a wide field provoked a lively discussion upon the many points raised, which bristled at times with pregnant remarks, although the serious side was not forgotten. Whatever may be in store for us in the future, we

are sure success can best be accomplished by pulling together. We trust that an early peace will be established, and that we may be permitted once again to live and breathe under normal conditions.

We would remind societies that subscriptions to the local fund were recommended to be left over owing to the abnormal state of affairs in the country.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	5	8	10	By Executive Meetings	4	18	4
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	14	19	1	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	6	14	10
				„ Stationery and Postages	0	7	3
				„ Hours and Wages Board	0	7	6
				„ Secretary's Salary	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand 31st Dec., 1914....	6	0	0
	£20	7	11		£20	7	11

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand, January, 1914..	10	0	7	By Societies	3	0	0
„ Subscriptions	0	2	6	„ Balance in hand, January, 1915..	7	7	10
„ Interest	0	4	9				
	£10	7	10		£10	7	10

A. BINNS, Secretary.

NO. 4.—CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Cheetham (chairman), St. Helens.	Mr. C. W. Fawcett, Ruabon.
Councillor R. Wright (secretary), 56, Duke Street, Southport.	„ J. Jarman, Warrington.
Mr. H. J. Beeston, Liverpool.	„ W. Read, New Brighton.
	„ W. Williams, Chester.

Representative from the Co-operative Union : Mr. S. C. Hughes, Brymbo.

The year began with every prospect of the societies achieving record results, but, unfortunately, the latter half has been full of anxiety to co-operators. It, however, speaks well for the movement that the management committees have been able to overcome the many unforeseen difficulties as they have arisen, with so little dislocation of business and inconvenience to the members.

Several societies were contemplating making extensions, but the majority of these deemed it prudent not to do so under existing circumstances. A new society has been established at Llanfairfechan, and commenced business on 27th June, 1914; another at Dolgarrog, near Conway, principally by a firm for the benefit of its workmen. Several inquiries have also been made from persons in regard to the formation of societies in their districts, but, as a rule, they wished the societies to be formed for them, and not by them. Where within measurable distance of other societies, the inquirers and the existing societies have been put into communication with each other.

The executive have devoted considerable attention to credit trading societies, and after much correspondence and several visits to the worst offenders, are pleased to find that the amounts have been considerably reduced.

Two cases of overlapping have been amicably settled.

The method of voting at conferences having been carefully considered by the executive, it was resolved—

That Rule 6, stating ‘That no society shall have the right to vote on any question unless the society is a member of the Co-operative Union,’ be strictly observed.

The greatest and most momentous step ever taken by the societies in this district is the amalgamation of the City of Liverpool and Toxteth societies. The executive wish “God speed” to the new society, which commences with a membership of 35,000 and an annual sale of nearly £700,000.

CONFERENCES.

The usual quarterly conferences have taken place, all of which were exceptionally well attended, not only by delegates directly elected by societies, but by representatives from men’s guilds, women’s guilds, and educational committees. It is interesting to note that in this district association there are no less than twenty-four branches of the women’s guild, seven of the men’s guild, and ten educational committees. Where these auxiliaries are conducted on right lines, and consist of energetic members, full of co-operative vitality, imbued with the high ideals and noble aspirations of the founders of the movement, they become powerful propagandist agencies, and are bound to be of the greatest benefit and assistance to their respective societies, as they leave the management committees to act as their name denotes.

At each conference the district secretary’s quarterly statistical returns were distributed and greatly appreciated.

The first conference took place on 25th May, 1914, under the joint auspices of the Buckley and Ewloe Place societies, when Mr. Thomas Jones (Buckley) read his paper on “What Co-operation has done for the Working Classes.”

The annual conference was held at Toxteth (Liverpool) on 22nd August, when “question time” was devoted to an attempt to decide upon the best general way of electing committees of management. The following resolution, proposed on behalf of the Toxteth Society, afforded many delegates the opportunity of expressing their views on the question, and, as the guilds were well represented, it was carried by a majority of two to one :—

That this conference regrets the action of the United Board in attaching to the grants to the men’s and women’s guilds a condition that all subjects discussed by these bodies should be submitted to the United Board, and calls upon the United Board to at once reconsider their decision.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Robert Wright was re-elected district secretary for the twenty-sixth time, and Messrs. Cheetham (St Helens), Fawcett (Cefn), Williams (Chester), Jarman (Warrington), and Beeston (Liverpool) were re-elected on the executive; also Mr. Reed (Birkenhead) in place of Mr. Millar (Queensferry).

Instead of a paper for discussion, the district secretary reviewed the annual report of the executive, pointing out many interesting features, *e.g.*, seven societies, with aggregate sales amounting to over a million pounds sterling, allow no credit; average wages of the distributive and productive employés in this district compared with those paid in the whole of the North-Western Section; out of every thousand members in the district, only four belonged to societies non-members of the Union, &c.

At the third conference, held on 28th November, at Ellesmere Port, a paper by Mr. Jarman (executive), who was unavoidably absent, was read by Mr. Blair (Liverpool) on "The Present Financial Position and Prospects of the Co-operative Movement."

At the fourth conference, at St Helens, on 27th February, 1915, a question by the Brymbo Society, in reference to employing female assistants in grocery departments at the present time, revealed many divergent views. A paper prepared by Mr. Cheetham (executive) and Mr. Glen (St. Helens), on "Superannuation for Co-operative Employés," was read by the latter, and was practically an explanation of the scheme of the St. Helens Society. The voting on the question of the grant to the women's guild resulted in favour of the Central Board resolution; and in regard to "Co-operation with other Forces," a majority voted in favour of resolutions 1 and 2, and in equal numbers on resolution 3.

The executive desire to thank most heartily the societies under whose auspices the conferences have been held for the generous hospitality extended to the delegates, and to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for so kindly allowing them the use of the Liverpool office in which to hold the executive meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	8	7 0
„ Cash from North-Western Sec-			„ Conferences and other meetings.	21	14 9
tional Board	39	2 0	„ Propaganda Meeting	2	17 10
			„ Stationery	0	1 6
			„ Postages	2	0 11
			„ Secretary's Honorariums (1913-14)	4	0 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6	0 0
	£45	2 0		£45	2 0

ROBERT WRIGHT, Secretary.

No. 5.—DEWSBURY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Samuel Hall (chairman), Cleck- heaton.	Mr. Edmund Stansfield, Morley.
„ T. H. Thomson (secretary), Batley Carr, Batley.	„ R. B. Liley, Horbury.
„ T. Gill, Wakefield.	„ George Lucas, Ossett.
	„ J. Kershaw, Batley.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. J. Staynes, Wakefield.

The year under review has, from a co-operative standpoint, been one of continual progress in the district; but, in common with all our fellow-countrymen, the shadow of the great war has robbed us of much of the satisfaction usually felt in times of expansion.

In the early days of August a feeling of uneasiness and uncertainty as to the effects of the outbreak of war on societies occupied the minds of all responsible for their government. Before the close of that month the prospects of the prosperity of the heavy woollen district brightened, and from September right up to the time of writing, a boom in the staple industry has been experienced, the like of which has never been known in the past.

The result of this unexampled period is seen in the abnormal increases in sales among the societies in the district, while the steadying effect of co-operative effort on prices during August and September has resulted in a great increase in co-operative membership.

Our first conference was held at Northorpe on 14th February, 1914, under the auspices of the Mirfield Perseverance Society. Mr. Blackburn (secretary of the society) read Mr. S. B. Fraser's paper, "How best can we Retain the Interest of Young Students in the Furtherance of Co-operative Principles." The chief features of the discussion were appeals for a more concentrated effort by educational committees to be made, in order to strengthen both junior and senior co-operators in the ideals of the movement.

On 16th May the second conference was held at Mirfield, under the auspices of the Industrial Society, where Mr. Hibbert (Failsworth) read his paper on "Representation and Voting at Co-operative Wholesale Society's Meetings." An animated discussion followed, opinion being about evenly divided on the question.

The August conference was held at Grange Moor, on the 22nd, the Friendly Co-operative Society entertaining same. Mr. George Thorpe (Co-operative Wholesale Society) read his paper on "Our Food Supplies and How to Increase Them." The outbreak of war brought forcibly to the minds of the delegates the importance of the subject, and several interesting speeches were made on the paper. Mr. Thorpe, in his reply to the various speakers, emphasised the urgency of the matter, and held that the nation most nearly self-contained occupied a far stronger position economically in times such as these than the one dependent almost entirely on outsiders for its supplies; and while human society was governed on present lines, development on the lines suggested in the paper was the only safe course.

The conference usually held in November was abandoned.

On the suggestion of the Horbury Society, a special conference of delegates from boards of management was held at Horbury on 24th October, 1914. Mr. Cocker (president of the Horbury Society) introduced the subject of "Uniformity in Prices of Leading Articles of Foodstuff," and suggested the formation of a prices board to regulate same. The question of "Uniform Dividends" was also discussed, and it was resolved to approach societies and secure their opinion as to the advisability of forming a prices board, to consist of one representative from each society. This has been done, with the result that a majority of societies voted against the suggestion, and the matter has for the present been dropped.

The productive works in the district maintain their position, and while one or two have been affected by the war, the trading results have proved quite satisfactory under the exceptional circumstances.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	35	7	8	By Balance due	7	3	5
				„ Executive Meetings	8	6	3
				„ Conferences and other Meetings ..	8	13	3
				„ Wages and Hours Board	1	2	6
				„ Deputations	1	1	9
				„ Stationery	0	4	6
				„ Postages	0	16	0
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6	0	0
	£35	7	8		£35	7	8

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand from last account..	12	14	6	By District Conferences (Fares and Expenses) ..	2	17	3
„ Subscriptions from Societies	10	3	0	„ Grange Moor Conference	2	6	0
				„ Delegate to Congress	3	0	0
				„ Postages	0	10	6
				„ Carriage ..	0	1	6
				„ Cash in hand	14	2	3
	£22	17	6		£22	17	6

T. H. THOMSON, Secretary.

No. 6.—EAST YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Jos. Nicholson (president), York.	Mr. F. Bradley, Selby.
„ W. H. Bailey (secretary), Hull.	„ T. Kirby, Market Weighton.
„ B. Webster, Leeds.	„ George Garton, Scarborough.
„ W. McMahon, Beverley.	„ Whitfield Mellor, Kippax.

Representative from Sectional Board: Mr. G. Goodenough, Castleford.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association: Mr. T. Anderson, York

The work of the district association during the past year shows that we have been making steady progress in our efforts to extend the possibilities

of our movement, the majority of societies being fully alive to the importance of propaganda work and the extension of co-operation in their districts. We regret that there are one or two societies still outside the Union, but we hope that they will become members before long, so that we can report all societies in our district are within our ranks.

We have held our executive committee meetings in the boardrooms of the following societies :—Pocklington, Scarborough, Selby, and York, and the result of our meetings has been of mutual advantage to all concerned.

Our district conferences have been held under the auspices of the following societies :—

At Beverley, on Saturday, 24th January, 1914, Mr. Jos. Nicholson read Mr. J. Johnston's paper, "How best to Secure the Solidarity and Permanent Security of Societies in the Movement."

At Kippax, on Saturday, 9th May, Mr. W. H. Bailey read Mr. J. Pollitt's paper, "Co-operative Production : A Plea for a Forward Movement."

At Driffield, on 15th August, the conference was a joint one with the women's guild, the question under discussion being "The Withholding of the Guild Grant by the Co-operative Union."

At York, 28th November, Mr. T. Anderson read his paper on "The Present Crisis and its Effect on the Co-operative Movement."

The conferences have been fairly well attended, and the discussions of the several subjects dealt with have been of a most interesting and educational character, all the speakers taking part having maintained and supported the further development of our great principles.

We regret that the work of our Hours and Wages Board has not been of such a satisfactory nature, but that is not the fault of the societies represented, but the lack of support from the employés' side of the movement, who have declined to send representatives to form a joint board, as recommended by our special conference when adopting the rules. It has been decided to continue the work, and a further effort will be made to bring the matter again before the Employés' Union.

Propaganda work has received our attention during the past year, several parts of the district that are not yet covered by the movement having received our attention, and also parts where societies seem lacking in their efforts to extend. Hull, York, Castleford, Scarborough, Market Weighton, and other societies are devoting their attention to the outlying districts. The opening of several branches in the near future has been contemplated by these societies, and we hope our efforts to assist some of the weaker societies to extend their work will be cordially accepted.

We are also pleased to report that an amicable agreement has been arrived at with regard to boundaries by the Hull and Market Weighton societies in this district, and we are convinced that much good can be accomplished and difficulties removed by other societies if they will seek the advice and help of the district association.

In conclusion, we can congratulate ourselves that we are still carrying

on business as usual, and that a grand future lies before us if we accept the opportunities presented to us

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	41	17	11	By Balance due to District	3	8	4
				„ Executive Meetings	10	1	7
				„ District Conferences	12	12	3
				„ Joint Meetings—Manchester ..	4	14	7
				„ Sectional Conference—Stockport.	2	3	8
				„ Secretary's Salary	2	0	0
				„ Postages	0	17	6
				„ Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1914..	6	0	0
	£41	17	11		£41	17	11

W. H. BAILEY, Secretary.

No. 7.—HUDDERSFIELD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. Booth (chairman), Wooldale.	Mr. Joseph Bland, Huddersfield.
„ L. Matthews (district secretary), 207, Leeds Road N., Huddersfield.	„ J. A. Sykes, Kirkburton.
„ J. Pogson (statistical secretary), Beaumont Street, Netherton.	„ Crowther Brearley, Longwood.
„ F. Ellis (treasurer), 3, College Street, Crosland Moor.	„ Edwin Earnshaw, Shepley.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. E. Booth, Wooldale, near Huddersfield.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association: Mr. J. S. Armitage,
-7, Lidget Street, Lindley, Huddersfield.

Four conferences (one evening) and four executive meetings have been held during the year. The attendance at the conferences has been very good. Below is a summary of them.

Saturday, 25th April, 1914, in the Co-operative Hall, Berry Brow, under the auspices of the Parkgate and Berry Brow Society, Mr. Barrand in the chair. In welcoming the delegates he referred to the growth of the society since they last had the privilege of entertaining the conference. Their sales had risen from £13,000 to £19,900, and their membership had increased from 789 to 953. They had also opened greengrocery and stationery branches, both of which were fairly successful. In reply to a question from Mr. Balderstone (Longwood), Mr. Booth said the questions of uniform dividends and amalgamation had not been dropped. They were simply waiting an opportune time to reintroduce them. Mr. Geo. Thorpe (Co-operative Wholesale Society director) then read a paper specially prepared for this conference, "Our Food Supplies and How to Increase Them." Mr. Thorpe dealt with the subject in a very able and instructive manner,

and it is hoped much good will result from it. A very interesting discussion followed.

Saturday, 25th July, 1914, in the Conservative Club, Golcar, Mr. Ben Pearson (Central Working Men's Society) in the chair. Mr. T. E. Moorhouse (Co-operative Wholesale Society director) read his paper on "The Co-operative Outlook," which he said was decidedly encouraging, and the question which presented itself was, what means could they adopt for a greater and more rapid development of the movement to meet the growing needs of an educated democracy? Co-operators had a duty to fulfil in helping forward the solution of these problems. "Each for all and all for each" had long been their motto, and it would be well if every working man and woman would try and grasp the real meaning of the sentiment. Mr. Moorhouse pleaded for the keeping of co-operative capital in the movement, and alluded to the growth of international co-operative trading, which augured well for the future peace of nations.

A special conference of delegates was held in the lecture room, kindly lent by the Education Committee of the Huddersfield Industrial Society, on Saturday evening, 29th August, 1914, at 6-30 p.m., when the subject of "Co-operation and the National Crisis" was discussed. Mr. Joseph Hamer (president, Huddersfield Industrial Society) in the chair. The subject was very ably introduced by Messrs. E. Booth and J. Pogson (executive). After a long and interesting discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

- (a) That this conference requests that all societies in the district sell all their goods at cost price, plus expenses, until the national crisis is over.
- (b) That the district secretary convey this resolution to the directors of each society, asking them to kindly consider it at the earliest possible moment.

The executive committee were disappointed at the result of their effort to make things a little easier for all concerned. Four societies voted for the scheme, 24 against it, and 12 sent no reply. In view of the character of the replies, the executive decided to take no further action in the matter.

Saturday, 20th February, 1915, in the Parochial Hall, Kirkburton, Mr. Bedford (president, Kirkburton Society) in the chair. The subject for discussion was "The Co-operative Union's Grant to the Women's Guild." The executive adopted a rather different policy than usual. Instead of having Mr. Goodenough's paper read, Mr. Booth (executive) outlined the position of the Union with regard to the grant, and Mrs. Wood (Huddersfield Women's Guild) took up the case on behalf of the Women's Guild. On the vote being taken, the result was 25 in favour of the Central Board and 22 in favour of the Women's Guild.

We are pleased to report that Hinchliffe Mill Society has joined the Co-operative Union; also that Wooldale Education Committee has joined the district conference association.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	27 14 1	By Balance due	8 15 1
		" Executive Meetings	4 8 1
		" Conference and other Meetings ..	6 0 5
		" Postages	0 8 0
		" Hire of Rooms	0 2 6
		" Secretary's Honorarium	2 0 0
		" Cash in hand, 31st Dec. 1914....	6 0 0
	<u>£27 14 1</u>		<u>£27 14 1</u>

LOCAL ACCOUNT.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash in hand	8 8 7	By Conferences and other Meetings.	1 12 11
" " from Societies	2 5 0	" Delegates to Congress	1 10 0
		" Deputations	0 7 6
		" General Printing	0 11 0
		" Postages	0 16 1
		" Hire of Rooms	0 2 6
		" Plex Duplicator	0 17 6
		" Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	4 16 1
	<u>£10 13 7</u>		<u>£10 13 7</u>

L. MATTHEWS, Secretary.

No. 8.—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE, AND DISTRICT.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. H. Fletcher (chairman), Macclesfield.	Councillor William Hassall, Leek.
" George Harding (secretary), 82, Samuel Street, Crewe.	Mr. John Casson, Stockport.
Alderman F. Hayward, Burslem.	" John Symonds, Silverdale.
	" J. Crompton, Kidsgrave, Staffs.

Representative on Sectional Board : Mr. E. Derbyshire, Crewe.

In submitting for your consideration the annual report and balance sheet, the executive have pleasure in being able to report prosperity in the district. Many societies have again enlarged their premises owing to increased trade. Stockport Society has opened a branch at Cheadle Hulme, which we hope will prove a grand success. Also, the Crewe Society has purchased a large public-house and shop in the ancient town of Audlem. The public-house was converted into a splendid branch, which was opened a few months ago, and, now that the seed of co-operation has been sown, we are hopeful of a bright future for the people of Audlem and district. Another branch was also opened in the ancient township of Bunbury. Co-operation in the Potteries District—which a few years ago was practically a co-operative desert—is still going on by leaps and bounds. Lectures and

concerts have been held to get new members into the movement. Co-operators throughout the district have cause to be thankful that their connection with the movement has enabled them to tide through the terrible crisis caused by the dreadful war that is now raging. We are pleased to say almost every town and village in the district is touched by co-operation, and three societies only are outside the Union.

Three ordinary conferences have been held, also two special conferences at the request of the Central Board, which have been well attended; in fact, some of the largest in the history of the district.

It is with sorrow that we again have to report that death has visited our ranks. Mr. J. Lowe (Crewe), the district representative on the Sectional Board, passed away after a short illness; also Mr. W. Smith (Congleton), for many years a member of the executive. Resolutions of sympathy were passed at the conferences and forwarded to the families.

"Lives of good men all remind us."

The first conference was held at Butt Lane, Staffordshire, on Saturday, 9th May, 1914, in the Co-operative Hall. Alderman Hayward (president of the association) presided. Mr. J. Price (president of the Butt Lane Society) heartily welcomed the delegates. This the chairman acknowledged. The latter then drew the attention of the delegates to the loss they had sustained in the death of Mr. Wm. Smith (Congleton), a member of the executive. A silent vote of sympathy was recorded. Mr. J. Compston (Butt Lane) read his paper entitled "Are Hours and Wages Boards Necessary in the Co-operative Movement?" and a very interesting and animated discussion ensued.

The second conference was held at Silverdale on Saturday, 8th August, 1914. Alderman F. Hayward presided, being supported by the members of the executive, also Mr. E. J. Dyhurst (president of the local society), who gave the delegates a hearty welcome. He said that, so far as his society was concerned, it was doing its best to push forward the cause of co-operation. He also stated that the absence of Mr. Taylor, the appointed reader of the paper, was due to him having suffered that week a great bereavement in the loss of his wife. The president said he was sure they all regretted the absence of Mr. Taylor, and suggested they should rise in their places as a token of respect towards him. Mr. J. Taylor's paper, entitled "The Values of Co-operation," was read by Mr. J. Symonds (Silverdale), of which the following is a summary:—Having broken down the barriers that have so persistently barred the road to success in co-operation, we to-day stand upon a platform in national life which is making a marked effect upon the people. It is the movement of value to the working man, for whilst in the past he had traded with the private trader he could only ask for justice, as a member of the movement he could share in its prosperity and privileges. A good discussion followed the reading of the paper, to which Mr. Symonds suitably replied. The election of the executive afterwards took place. Mr. Harding was re-elected secretary, and

the following were elected members of the executive for the ensuing Congress year :—Messrs. Hayward (Burslem), Casson (Stockport), Hassall (Leek), Symonds (Silverdale), Fletcher (Macclesfield), and Green (Congleton). Mr. Byrne asked if the delegates could have any information as to what the executive was doing in regard to credit trading in the district. The district secretary said they had the matter under consideration, but they had to proceed very carefully, as it involved very knotty issues. They had approached two or three societies, and in one instance they were told that the committee could manage the society's credit account without any interference, and he was afraid that would be the general attitude in the district.

The third conference was held at Macclesfield on Saturday, 28th November, 1914, presided over by Mr. J. H. Fletcher (president of the association). Mr. Walker (president of the Macclesfield Society) welcomed the delegates to Macclesfield. Mr. John Casson (Stockport) read his paper entitled "Co-operators and their Responsibilities during the Present Crisis." Mr. Casson began his paper in a heart-searching manner by putting a few questions to the delegates. A lengthy and interesting discussion took place, to which the writer suitably replied.

Mr. Compston (Butt Lane) was elected on the executive in place of Mr. Green (Congleton) resigned.

The fourth conference was a special one, held at the request of the Sectional Board, to discuss the question *re* the Central Board and the grant to the Women's Guild. The conference was held at Burslem on Saturday, 9th January, 1915. Mr. Hunt (president of the Burslem Society) gave the delegates a welcome, and in doing this he said they, at Burslem, were always pleased to have a co-operative conference in their midst. Mr. Fletcher (president of the conference) said the Central Board was anxious to get the opinion of the movement throughout the country on the question. Mr. J. Symonds (Silverdale) read the paper, which was summarised in the *Co-operative News*, 14th November. After a very keen and animated discussion, the chairman put the Central Board's resolution, which was declared lost, six voting for and 16 against. The result was received with applause.

The fifth conference was held under the auspices of the Leek Silk Twist Society on Saturday, 27th February, 1915. The subject for discussion was "Co-operation with Other Forces." Mr. J. H. Fletcher presided. In his opening remarks he regretted the absence of the district secretary through illness; he also called the attention of the delegates to the death of the chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (Mr. J. Shillito), and moved that a letter of condolence be sent to his family. On being seconded, the delegates rose from their seats. Mr. Hassall gave the delegates a most hearty welcome to Leek, after which Mr. Hayward read the paper, "Co-operation with other Forces." The discussion which followed the reading of the paper was well maintained throughout the afternoon; but on the resolutions

being submitted, a clear majority was obtained in favour of No. 3. The result of the voting was as follows:—Resolution No. 1, for 5, against 13; No. 2, for 9, against 10; No. 3, for 12, against 5.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1914 ..	1	12 5	By Executive Meetings	10	12 5
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	81	1 9	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	8	18 3
			„ Joint Meetings.....	1	14 5
			„ Hours and Wages Board	0	15 9
			„ Deputations	1	13 3
			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
			„ Postages	1	0 1
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914....	6	0 0
	£32	14 2		£82	14 2

G. HARDING, Secretary.

NO. 9.—MANCHESTER.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Daniel Pogson (chairman), Burnage.	Mr. W. H. Kirkland, Pendleton.
Councillor James Thompson, J.P. (secretary), Ashton.	Councillor Allen Shaw, J.P., Hyde.
Mr. George Wood (statistical secretary), Pendleton.	„ Edgar Whiteley, Burnage..
	Mr. Wm. Hibbert, Newton Heath.

Representative on the Sectional Board: Mr. James Pollitt, Swinton.

Representative of the Educational Committees' Association:

Mr. J. F. Ashworth.

The Executive have arranged and carried out the following conferences:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Writer and Reader.
1914.			
April 25	Denton	Co-operative Production; a Proposal for a Forward Movement.	Mr. J. Pollitt.
July 11	Glossop	The case for a Co-operative College.	Mr. A. Baxter.
Aug. 29	Swinton	The Co-operative Movement and the National Crisis.	Mr. J. Pollitt.
1915.			
Jan. 9	Eccles	Co-operation with other Forces.	Mr. J. Pollitt.

Before the reading of the paper at the first conference, Mr. Hibbert introduced the question (on behalf of the Failsworth Society) of "The Experience of the Societies on the working of Section 47 of the National Health Insurance Act" for discussion. The election of the committee and secretaries for the ensuing year, as above, took place at this conference.

At the second conference, after reading the paper on "The Case for a Co-operative College," Mr. Baxter moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting of the Manchester District Conference Association heartily approves the proposal to establish a Co-operative College, and welcomes the decision of the Co-operative Union to appoint a representative committee to undertake preliminary work, and the action that is being taken to develop educational work at Holyoake House and the Summer School as steps towards the realisation of the larger scheme.

This resolution, on being put to the meeting at the close of the discussion, was carried unanimously.

The third conference was a special one, called earlier than the usual time, on account of the special circumstances created by the outbreak of this terrible war. After a long discussion, it was decided to appoint a special committee for the purpose of deciding what steps to take in the crisis that had arisen. The following resolution was passed :—

That a committee be formed, consisting of one member of the general committee and the manager of each society (or grocery buyer, if no general manager) to see if it is not possible to have united action in the district with regard to (a) prices of commodities, (b) position of employes called up to the front, (c) working of employes during the crisis, and any other matters which could be dealt with by united action.

The first meeting of that committee took place on 9th September, when it was resolved that a small sub-committee of three be appointed to arrange the district into groups for a working arrangement, and send out a circular to get information as to what the societies were doing as to prices, coupons, giving checks, &c. Hyde, Manchester, and Prestwich societies were asked to appoint one member each, and meet at Holyoake House on 11th September, when they decided to arrange the societies into three groups and send out three questions for the societies to answer, and same be tabulated by the secretary for the next meeting of the full committee. This was done, and the district mapped out into three sub-districts, with a secretary for each. Meetings were called simultaneously at Hyde for Group I., at Glossop for Group II., and at Manchester for Group III.; but the societies in Groups I. and II., being inconveniently situated, did not get sufficient to attend to hold a meeting, proving that Manchester is the most convenient centre for meetings for the whole district in one group.

At the fourth conference we acceded to the request of the United Board and discussed the question of "Co-operation with other Forces." A very good discussion followed Mr. Pollitt's introduction of the question, both sides being very well stated, after which the three resolutions were put to the meeting, with the following result :—No. 1, 10 for and 48 against; No. 2, 8 for and 46 against; No. 3, 57 for and 11 against.

Before the war broke out the executive decided to visit four societies to discuss with them the question of making an attempt to deal with credit trading. One of the societies could not see that any good purpose would be

served by an interview, and the other did not condescend to reply to our request for an interview.

Our district, along with other parts of Lancashire, has suffered more than some other portions of the country from the war; but, considering the distress caused, especially at the beginning, the results are such as should make us profoundly thankful.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1913....	0	8	1	By Executive Meeting	3	17	0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	21	10	11	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	5	5	5
				„ Hours and Wages Board	2	11	11
				„ <i>Re</i> Credit.....	0	13	5
				„ Deputation to Hayfield.....	0	6	9
				„ Postages	1	4	6
				„ Secretary's salary	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6	0	0
	£21	19	0		£21	19	0

JAS. THOMPSON, Secretary.

NO. 10. —NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Joseph Snape (chairman), Padiham.	Mr. John R. Shuttleworth, Accrington.
Councillor J. W. Cooper (secretary), Jubilee Street, Clayton-le-Moors.	„ A. Higham, Darwen.
Councillor R. Hargreaves, Barrowford.	„ James Riding, Barrowford.
Mr. S. Blakeborough, J.P., Burnley.	„ John Hardicker, Langho.
	„ Robert Haresnape, Blackburn.

Representative on Sectional Board : Councillor Wm. Dewhurst, Colne.

Considering the abnormal state of affairs caused by the war, we consider that the co-operative movement in our district has done very well indeed. At the latter portion of the year the executive seriously considered the question of holding conferences as previously, but ultimately decided to follow the policy of "Business as usual," and we find it was the best course to take.

We have held four conferences during the year, the attendances being even greater than in past years, and we believe that a healthier co-operative spirit is engendered and maintained by holding such conferences.

The first conference of the year was held at Great Harwood on 21st February, 1914, when Mr. Wm. Sefton, of Great Harwood, read his paper entitled "A Criticism and a Suggestion or Two." Needless to say that, from this wide field, both criticisms and suggestions were forthcoming in plenty, and were very happily received.

Our next conference was held at Daisyfield, Blackburn, on 16th May, when, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Wm. Hibbert, a welcome substitute in the person of Mr. John Fitzgerald, of Failsworth, read Mr. Hibbert's

paper on "The Co-operative Wholesale Society: Should Representation and Voting Power be Based on Trade?" This question was much disputed on account, mainly, of local circumstances, but the paper was, needless to say, in good hands.

The third conference was held at Burnley on Saturday, 29th August, when Mr. Arthur Pickup, the secretary of Burnley Society, read a paper written by him on "The Co-operative Movement and the Employé." This subject was discussed in a fairly generous manner, and I feel sure the employés will not suffer from its results.

Our last conference of the year was held under the auspices of the Darwen Industrial Co-operative Society, when Mr. J. Bradshaw, the secretary of the North-Western Section, read Mr. W. H. Watkins' paper entitled "Co-operation and the Present Situation." The present situation meant practically the present position of affairs caused by the war. As might be expected some very spirited speeches were made on this subject, and at the conclusion Mr. Bradshaw submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously carried:—

That this conference of co-operative societies in the North-East Lancashire District, with an aggregate membership of upwards of ninety thousand, expresses its conviction that the proper maintenance of the wives, families, and dependents of all engaged in the service of the country during the war, and of those who may be killed or die in the service, is a national duty and responsibility, and calls upon the Government to make provision for such maintenance out of national funds. It suggests and heartily supports the following minimum:—£1 per week for the widow of every soldier or sailor killed, £1 per week for the mother dependent on every soldier or sailor killed, £1 per week for the wife of every soldier or sailor engaged in fighting, and adequate provision be made for every soldier or sailor maimed by fighting. It further expresses its conviction that the money subscribed by the public for the relief of distress occasioned by the war, is intended for the relief of civilians and should therefore be expended for that purpose alone.

This resolution to be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	29 17 11	By Balance due	8 8 8
		„ Executive Meetings	5 17 6
		„ Conferences and other Meetings..	6 14 7
		„ Sectional Conference ..	0 18 10
		„ Joint Meetings (Executives and Sectional Board)	1 14 8
		„ Postages	0 4 1
		„ Cash in hand, 31st December, 1914	6 0 0
	£29 17 11		£29 17 11

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Interest	0 4 0	By Balance, December, 1913	4 11 7
„ Grants from Societies:—		„ Executive Meetings	6 9 6
Accrington and Church £9 17 6		„ District Conferences	8 3 1
„ Provident.. 0 15 6		„ Sectional Conferences	0 18 10
Barnoldswick	1 17 6	„ Joint Meetings	1 14 3
Barrowford Industrial. 0 11 6		„ Hours and Wages Board	3 6 3
Billington and Whalley 0 13 0		„ Depntatons	0 10 3
Blackburn—Daisyfield 4 11 8		„ In re Chaighley Manor	6 9 9
„ Grimshaw P. 4 0 0		„ Congress Delegate	4 4 9
„ Industrial .. 4 6 9		„ Paid for Teas.....	0 10 0
„ Livesey 0 10 5		„ Postages	0 12 11
Clayton-le-Moors..... 2 8 2		„ Secretary's Salary	4 0 0
Clitheroe	1 12 6	„ Balance	29 12 7
Colne	6 4 6		
Darwen Industrial 9 4 8			
„ Provident 1 19 6			
Earby	1 0 8		
Great Harwood	3 13 0		
Higham	0 3 5		
Lr. Darwen—Fore St.. 0 5 6			
Nelson.....	9 15 9		
Oswaldtwistle 1 16 10			
Padiham.....	2 17 4		
Rishton	1 9 0		
Sabden Industrial 0 7 0			
Salterfor.h.....	0 1 4		
Trawden.....	0 7 6		
Wheatley Lane	0 3 3		
Winewall	0 6 0		
	<hr/> 70 19 9		
	<hr/> £71 3 9		<hr/> £71 3 9

J. W. COOPER, Secretary.

NO. 11.—NORTH LANCASHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Moore, J.P., (chairman), Lancaster.	Mr. John Gorton, Preston.
„ J. Parr, J.P. (secretary), Blackpool.	„ R. Pickering, Blackpool.
„ R. Richmond, Fleetwood.	„ T. Kay, J.P., Longridge.

Representative from Sectional Board: Mr. W. Gregory, J.P., Preston.

The spirit of co-operation has been strengthened in this district as the result of the exceptional circumstances through which we have been passing during the last half of the year, owing to the national crisis and the effect the war has had upon prices of food, as the members have realised as they never did before that co-operation has been the barrier to exorbitant rates for most of the material necessities of life.

Five E.C. meetings and four conferences have been held during the year. These have been well attended by representatives of all the societies in the district, together with representatives from the educational committees and men's and women's guilds.

The first was held under the auspices of the Preston Society on 21st February, when Mr. W. F. Duerden read a paper on "The Principles of the Trade Union and Co-operative Movements." He said every trade-unionist, to be consistent with his principles, should be a co-operator, and that the

society of which he was a member should pay the trade union rate of wages. He should take an interest in the affairs of the society, attend its meetings, and exercise a keen vigilance in the election of its officers and committeemen. The unionists should endeavour to get their unions to transfer their capital and current accounts to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank. A good discussion resulted, but the majority of the delegates seemed to be of the opinion that each movement had a separate function to perform, and that it would be better to work separately, but to fraternise and help each other as before.

The second conference took place at Lancaster on 23rd May, when Mr. A. Varley (secretary of the local society) read a paper on "The Proposed Revision of voting and Representation at the Co-operative Wholesale Society." After describing the present system of voting as being based on membership, he said his scheme would be :—One vote for each society whose total purchases, together with the total of its supplies from productive works, did not exceed £8,000, one vote for each £8,000 of purchases and productive supplies afterwards, and one vote additional for those societies which did their banking business with the society ; but any society whose total business, as above stated, was less than £8,000 should not have this additional vote on behalf of banking business. A statement showing the total purchases and supplies for the year, together with a statement showing the number of votes to which the society was entitled, should be sent to societies not later than the end of March in the year following that for which the figures were to be given ; the votes to be based on those figures for all delegations, and voting to take place between the beginning of April in one year and the end of March in the following year.

The annual conference was held at Walmer Bridge on 29th August, when Mr. J. Parr, J.P. (secretary), read a paper on "Co-operation and the National Crisis." He said in times such as these they would have extreme policies advocated, but their main line of action should be to get men and women inside the movement, and demonstrate to them that co-operation was economically sound from every point of view. He pointed out the folly of members withdrawing their share capital in times such as these. Undue withdrawal should be checked by the application of the rules limiting these ; but suspension of payment should only be made as a last resort. He thought some principle of credit trading would have to be adopted to meet the distressful times which would confront them. The greatest caution should be exercised, and the amount of credit granted stated in the shop purchase book supplied to the member. He urged the delegates to support the relief funds as their individual and collective means permitted, and to see that their boards of management and women's guilds were represented on the various citizen committees that were being formed. They should not only relieve distress, but prevent it as far as possible by providing useful work wherever practicable for the unemployed.

The last conference of the year was held at Kirkham on 28th November, when Mr. W. Gregory, J.P., read a paper on "Co-operation with other

Forces," prepared by the Union. In introducing the question, he said the subject was highly controversial, and he wanted them to get away from personal and private opinions entirely, and study the question from the point of view of the co-operative movement. They should remember the basis on which the movement was founded. It was free and open to men and women of all shades of political thought and religious opinions, so long as they were prepared to uphold co-operative principles. Some people argued that it was impossible for them to go along without coming in contact with political matters, but it did not follow that it was necessary to ally themselves with any one political party. So long as the laws were not directed against them, they had nothing to complain of. As a result of the voting on the three propositions submitted, the following was adopted by 57 votes against three:—

That this conference does not approve of any joint action with any other outside organisation, with the exception of the interchange of friendly greetings as heretofore.

The E.C. have done their utmost to check credit trading in the district, and it is hoped that good results will have attended their efforts.

Complaints as to overlapping between two societies in the district have been amicably removed.

The Lancaster Society has decided to invite the Congress for 1916 to be held at Lancaster, and we hope the historic county town will then be honoured by Congress meeting there.

The hours and wages board has met during the year, when the rates of wages and conditions of labour observed by the various societies were considered, and suggestions made regarding same.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	3	14	6	By Executive Meeting	7	6	7
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	23	16	8	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	10	9	3
				„ Hours and Wages Board	0	14	0
				„ General Printing, &c.	0	13	3
				„ Postages	0	7	8
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, December, 1914 ..	6	0	0
	£27	10	9			£27	10 9

J. PARR, Secretary.

No. 12.—NORTH LONSDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Lewney, J.P. (Chairman),

Dalton-in-Furness.

„ G. Richardson (secretary), Barrow.

„ J. Ireland, Ulverston.

Mr. H. W. Hague, Carnforth.

„ J. H. Parr, Kendal.

„ W. Britton Jones, Millom.

„ W. Lyon, J.P., Barrow.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. W. Swindlehurst, Barrow.

In reviewing the progress and work of the district during the past year we may say the first six months' progress and trade was normal; the latter six months have been fraught with anxiety throughout the movement and trade in general. We are, however, confident that when the full history is written it will be seen that co-operation served the people and country well in a period of the national crisis. That our movement had a steadying effect on the upward rush in prices is evidenced locally. Taking societies throughout the district in general, trade has been more than maintained. This is accountable by the fact that a large part of the district is engaged in the manufacture of the munitions of war. There has been a large increase of members throughout the district. Several extensions of premises have been carried out by societies for trade purposes.

The Ulverston Society sustained a heavy loss through their bakery being burned out. The premises are being rebuilt and remodelled.

The close of Congress year saw the retirement of Mr. James Dickinson, who had represented the district on the North-Western Sectional Board for nine years. He served on the executive committee since its formation in 1892. Taken altogether, Mr. Dickinson's record of co-operative work in the district covered a period of thirty-three years—1881 to 1914.

The conferences usually held were postponed for a time, prompt action being taken by the executive in holding special conferences to consider supply and prices.

Five executive meetings and four conferences have been held.

The first conference was held at Kendal on 23rd May, 1914, when Mr. Leah (manager, Life Department, Co-operative Insurance Society) read his paper on "Co-operative Life Assurance—Collective and Industrial." The subject was keenly discussed and much information obtained. Mr. Leah fully demonstrated their ability to deal with societies' insurance, and instanced the large saving that would be effected by the abolition of house to house collection.

The second conference was held on 29th August at Ulverston. This was a special conference of management committees and managers only, and was called to consider the position of societies owing to the crisis which had arisen on the outbreak of war. The meeting dealt with—(1) Prices and supply of goods; (2) advisability of reducing prices and paying less dividend; (3) withdrawal of capital; (4) assistance to members in distress. Resolutions were adopted bearing on the foregoing, and, although no distinct action was imposed on any society, a general understanding was agreed upon.

The third conference was held at Barrow on 9th January, 1915. Mr. Swindlehurst (Sectional Board) introduced the subject of "Co-operation with other Forces." The result of the voting on the three resolutions submitted was against any "fusion of forces."

The fourth conference was held at Millom on 20th February. The meeting had under discussion "The Central Board and the Grant to the Women's Guild." Mr. Swindlehurst gave a *résumé* of Mr. Goodenough's paper, dealing closely with the salient facts of the case. The voting on the

resolution submitted entirely upheld the action of the Central Board in withholding the grant till Congress decides.

We again tender our thanks to those societies under whose auspices our conferences were held.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1914.....	1	13	7	By Executive Meetings	8	0	5
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	27	14	8	„ Conferences and other Meetings	5	13	4
				„ Joint Meeting—Manchester	4	8	3
				„ Sectional Meeting—Stockport...	2	8	3
				„ Hours and Wages Board	0	4	0
				„ Postages	0	14	0
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6	0	0
	£29	8	3		£29	8	3

GEO. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

No. 13.—OLDHAM.

Executive Committee.

Councillor F. Houghton, J.P. (president), Oldham.	Councillor S. Kitchen, J.P., Ashton
Mr. William Hall (district secretary), Ashton-under-Lyne.	Mr. A. E. Dicken, Stalybridge.
Mr. J. W. Wroe, Oldham.	„ David Lawton, J.P., Greenfield.
	„ H. Whitehead, jun., Dobcross.

Representative from the Educational Committees' Association :

Mr. W. A. Lees, Oldham.

Representative on Sectional Board : Mr. H. Stuttard, Royton.

The work during the past year has been most strenuous and unprecedented. The executive have held five meetings. Employés having demanded increased wages, special meetings and conferences were held, the differences being adjusted amicably.

The deplorable war is responsible for much dislocation of trade and increased cost of living, yet it is most encouraging to find how societies adapt themselves to the difficult situation.

Oldham Equitable having taken over Lees Society, we hope for consolidation and extension.

Educational work has been continued with usual vigour. Successful concerts, lectures, classes, debates, &c., have somewhat relieved the prevailing gloom. The present time is considered most opportune to propagate co-operative principles, on account of this terrible international war.

The first conference was held at Stalybridge on 16th May, 1914. Mr. J. H. Hinchcliffe (secretary, Stalybridge Society) read an instructive paper on "The Investment of Surplus Capital." He favoured a differential rate of interest for members' savings, and the removal of the £200 limit.

The second conference was held at Grasscroft on 8th August, 1914, when Mr. J. Pollitt (Sectional Board) read his paper on "Co-operative Production : A Proposal for a Forward Movement."

The third conference was held at Waterloo, near Ashton. Councillor F. Houghton, J.P., read the circular issued by the Union on "Co-operation with other Forces," an interesting discussion resulting. The voting was—Resolution 1: For, 1; against, 20. Resolution 2: For, none; against, 21. Resolution 3: For, 21; against, none.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	25 16 4	By Balance due	1 17 10
		„ Executive Meetings	5 8 5
		„ Conferences and other Meetings	5 13 3
		„ Hours and Wages Board	2 12 6
		„ Deputations	1 10 11
		„ Joint Meeting	0 7 6
		„ Postages	0 5 11
		„ Secretary's Honorarium	2 0 0
		„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6 0 0
	£25 16 4		£25 16 4

WILLIAM HALL, Secretary.

NO. 14.—ROCHDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. Holt (chairman) Rochdale.	Mr. Wm. Holt, Milnrow.
„ W. Booth (secretary), Lytham Place, Bury New Road, Heywood.	„ A. Johnson, Heywood.
„ Thomas Rigby, Bury.	„ Jas. Hunting, Elton, near Bury.
„ C. A. Cook, Wardle.	„ J. H. Barrett, New Hey.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Ben. Woolfenden, Rochdale.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association: Mr. J. C. Hill,
Bury.

In presenting our report, we are glad to say that, considering the troublous times we are passing through consequent upon the war, the societies in the district are in a very fair condition, nothing of a serious nature having disturbed the trade of the district. We have established a Hours and Wages Board, and we are glad to say that thus far things are working smoothly. No friction exists between the board and the employés of the district.

We have during the year held three executive meetings and four conferences. The conferences have been well attended, and we think conducive to the consolidation of the movement and to an infusion of the true co-operative spirit throughout the district.

The first conference was held at Littleborough on 17th January, 1914, when Councillor Thomas Rigby read Mr. B. Williams' paper entitled "Social Reform without Delay." The feeling at this conference was that social reforms were needed, but it was feared a fusion of forces or an introduction of politics in the movement might be seriously detrimental to the welfare of the movement, and it was thought that the utmost caution was needed in moving on these lines.

The second conference was held at Whitworth on 25th April, 1914. Mr. Alfred Johnson (Heywood), in the absence of Mr. Robert Holt, read Mr. Mallon's paper entitled "How some Food is Prepared: A Contrast in Industrial Conditions." This paper caused quite a surprise by the statements it contained concerning adulteration, and the way in which some trade was done. The conference evidently felt that in these matters there was room for great improvement.

The third conference was held at Rochdale on 25th July, 1914, when Mr. G. Thorp (Co-operative Wholesale Society) read his paper entitled "Our Food Supplies and how to Increase Them." A good discussion followed touching the high price of food, and the question of the land was much dwelt upon, the feeling being that the land question was an anomaly, and wanted dealing with so that production might be increased and employment found, and then better conditions would be the lot of the people generally.

The fourth conference was held at Smithy Bridge on 10th October, 1914. Mr. C. A. Cook (executive) delivered an address on "The National Crisis." The conference felt the war had created a state of things that behoved co-operators to keep cool and face the situation in a manly, sober, and business-like way. It was felt to be a very timely subject Mr. Cook had dealt with, and doubtless the precautions named in the address would be useful to the delegates in the management of their respective societies.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	0	1	0	By Executive Meeting	4	4	0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	22	4	0	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	6	17	5
				„ Propaganda	0	9	8
				„ Hours and Wages Board.....	1	3	9
				„ Joint Meeting	0	9	4
				„ Carriage	0	0	6
				„ Postages	1	0	4
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand 4th Dec., 1914.....	6	0	0
	£22	5	0		£22	5	0

WILLIAM BOOTH, Secretary.

NO. 15.—ROSSENDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Samuel Spargo (chairman), Bacup.	Mr. John Longworth, Ramsbottom
„ J. W. Hargreaves (secretary), Haslingden.	„ W. L. Whitehead, Waterfoot.
„ Robert H. Hamer, Haslingden.	„ W. H. Canham, Waterfoot.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. J. W. Hargreaves, Haslingden.

It is a pleasure to report that, notwithstanding the war and all its attendant drawbacks to trade, societies in this district have during 1914 done fairly well, and in several cases have increased both their membership and trade.

At the beginning of the year three societies remained outside the

Co-operative Union, but Cawl Terrace has joined, and efforts are being made to secure the adhesion of the remaining two.

For geographical reasons Turn Society, at their own request, have been transferred from the Rochdale to our district.

The Hours and Wages Board have got to work, and statistics have been compiled showing general working conditions and wages in the various societies, which will form useful matter for future consideration and discussion. It is hoped that this board will be of much use and service in the association's work.

Much regret has been felt by the executive and the district generally at the resignation of the chairman, Mr. Samuel Spargo (Bacup), who, after ten years' excellent service in that capacity, has resigned on account of the severance of his official connection with the Bacup Society.

Four executive meetings have been held, whilst in addition the executive have met prior to each conference. Attention has been given to various matters affecting the interest of the district, as well as giving due consideration to the larger and general interests of co-operation as a whole.

There is an excellent spirit of good fellowship between the various societies in the district, which augurs well for the future work of the association.

Four quarterly conferences have been held, the first being at Helmsore on 10th January, when Mr. N. T. Bentley (secretary of the local society) read Mr. E. Booth's paper on "The Lack of Interest among Members of Co-operative Societies." A spirited discussion followed, and several useful points were brought out and suggestions made which are likely to be very helpful to societies.

The second conference was held at Whitewell Bottom on 25th April, when Mr. John Lord (a member of the local store) read a paper on "Co-operators and Interest." The paper was full of original ideas, and although somewhat out of the beaten track of co-operative papers, it was highly appreciated by the delegates. Mr. Lord pleaded for the great ideals of co-operation to be used in the activities of their work and enterprise. Whilst not desiring the banishment of these profits which were essential to the carrying on of co-operation, he thought that interest should be abolished, because its existence made it hard for some, and harder still for the very poor to exist. A lively discussion ensued, in which many speakers, whilst finding themselves unable to accept the writer's views, paid a tribute to the sincerity which lay behind them.

The third conference was held under the auspices of the Water Society on 18th July, when Mr. Joseph Bradshaw (secretary of the North-Western Sectional Board) read his paper on "The Co-operative Union: A Review of its Work and its importance to the Movement." The paper was a most valuable one, full of information on the various matters the Union takes up on behalf of co-operation. In the discussion which took place the feeling was expressed that the reading of the paper would be the means of increasing the interest in the work of the Co-operative Union throughout the district.

The fourth conference was held at Edenfield on 17th October, when Mr. S. Spargo (chairman of the association) introduced the subject of "The Present War and its Effects upon Rossendale Co-operators." Whilst considering it impossible to lay down any definite rule for the guidance of each society, the writer thought that by conferring together they could both stimulate and strengthen each other in their work and purpose. He pleaded that they should stand by the poorer members who were suffering from insufficient wages, and not be afraid to give a reasonable amount of credit after full inquiry had been made to see if those members were honest and deserving people. There was an excellent discussion, in which a variety of views were expressed on the subjects of dividend, credit, &c.

All the conferences have been well attended, and in one or two cases a record has been created in this respect.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.	£	s	d.	Expenditure.	£	s	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	1	14	0	By Executive Meeting.....	3	9	1
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	17	10	10	„ Conferences	4	0	4
				„ Sectional and District Meetings and Fares	2	14	11
				„ Stationery	0	2	0
				„ Postages	0	18	6
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914....	6	0	0
	£19	4	10		£19	4	10

LOCAL FUND

Receipts.	£	s	d.	Expenditure.	£	s	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1914..	7	1	11	By Cash paid for Conference Teas..	8	12	7
„ District Levy, 25th April, 1914 ..	14	12	1	„ Fares	0	2	1
Audited—				„ Stationery	0	2	6
A. J. Joy.				„ Hours and Wages Board ..	0	6	11
				„ Stamps	0	8	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914....	12	1	11
	£21	14	0		£21	14	0

J. W. HARGREAVES, Secretary.

NO. 16.—SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. F. W. Sandford (chairman), Sharrow.	Councillor Jones, Barnsley.
Mr. W. Knowles (secretary), 93, Heavy Gate Road, Steel Bank, Sheffield.	Mr. L. Holmes, Goole.
„ G. Major, Rotherham.	„ J. Dimberline, Sheffield.
„ J. Gillies, Doncaster.	„ J. C. Kenworthy, Deepcar, near Sheffield.

Representative from Sectional Board : Mr. A. J. Wroe, Barnsley.

We have pleasure in presenting our thirty-sixth annual report to Congress.

Six executive meetings and six conferences have been held, a list of which is appended :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1914.			
14th Jan. ..	Ecclesall (Special).	Wages and Hours Board First Meeting for the Election of Officers.	Convener of Meet- ing, Wm Knowles, District Secretary.
14th Feb. ..	Doncaster	Working Class Problems	Mr. W. J. Cooper.
9th May	Stocksbridge ..	The Co-operative Whole- sale Society—Should representation and voting power be based on trade? Failsworth Society's resolution put and carried.	Mr. Green, of Fails- worth
27th June ..	Masborough.... (Special).	To consider the work done by the Wages and Hours Board.	Mr. Montgomery.
1st August ..	Staveley	District Reports and Declaration of Elec- tion of Officers. Mr. Wright's paper, "Is it well with thy Store?"	Messrs. W. Knowles and G. Major. Mr. Knowles.
28th Nov. ..	Ecclesall	The Co-operative Move- ment and its Relation- ship to the Workshop and Workmen.	Mr. Urban Swift.

At the first special conference of the Wages and Hours Board the officers were appointed, after which it was decided to tabulate what the societies in the district were doing in the matter of wages and general conditions of labour. Several meetings of the committee were held, and a report of the result of their labours given at a further conference held at Masborough, which, after a full discussion on same, was adopted. It was then resolved—

That the societies be requested to put the findings of the Board into operation on and from the first of January, 1915.

At the first ordinary conference a very able paper was read, causing a most interesting discussion. At this meeting a vote of sympathy was passed to the family of our friend and fellow-worker, the late Mr. Llewellyn, J.P., who had served his fellow men in a variety of ways.

At our third conference the all-important subject of voting for the C.W.S.—Should it be on the basis of trade or numbers? The Failsworth Society's proposition was moved by Mr. Green, of Failsworth, who submitted his society's case to the conference. There followed a very animated discussion, which was replied to, and the resolution carried by a fair majority.

At our fifth conference, being the annual one, the reports were taken; the statistical report was well received. The scrutineers declared the result of the

election of officers. The secretary then read Mr. Wright's paper, but for want of time it did not receive the attention it deserved

At our last conference, but not least, the room was packed. The subject of the paper and the writer's treatment of it gave rise to an animated and interesting discussion, which no doubt will have given food for thought to the delegates, which we trust they will have taken home with them. The question of overlapping has received further attention, and in one case matters have been satisfactorily arranged, but in two others no terms have been come to. An effort has also been made to bring about the amalgamation of Chesterfield, Hasland Pilsley, and Clay Cross societies without success. Hasland society consulted their members in public meeting, when it was decided, by 108 to 13 votes, "That the committee cease all negotiations for amalgamation with the societies above-named." In conclusion, we have reason to be proud of our movement for the way it has been able to supply the wants of the people during the unique crisis we are passing through.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	33 8 10	By Balance	1 0 6
		„ Executive Meeting.....	6 3 11
		„ Conferences and other Meetings.....	11 16 6
		„ Hours and Wages Board	0 13 0
		„ Joint Meetings with Sectional Board	2 19 7
		„ Deputations	1 15 4
		„ Postages	1 0 0
		„ Secretary's Honorarium	2 0 0
		„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1914	6 0 0
	<u>£33 8 10</u>		<u>£33 8 10</u>

DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Levies	21 8 8	By Balance due to Secretary.....	1 6 5
		„ Wages and Hours Board Expenses	13 15 4
		„ Postage	0 2 6
		„ Delegates' Expenses to Congress	2 16 0
		„ Balance in Secretary's hand ..	3 8 5
	<u>£21 8 8</u>		<u>£21 8 8</u>

WM. KNOWLES, Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Anderson (president), York.	Mr. J. C. Hill, Bury.
„ J. S. Armitage (treasurer), Huddersfield.	„ T. Marsden, Leeds.
„ W. A. Lees (hon. secretary), Oldham.	„ J. Russell, Liverpool.
„ E. Couldwell, Brightside and Carbrook.	„ S. Sheard, Bradford.
	„ W. Houghton, Failsworth.
	„ J. F. Ashworth, Eccles.

Mr. F. Vickers, Bolton.

Representative from Sectional Board : Mr. B. Woolfenden, Rochdale.

Hon. Auditor : Mr. S. Berry, Public Auditor, Oldham.

We have pleasure in submitting our report of the work of the association for the past year. The year commenced under conditions which promised steady progress, and which held out bright hopes of gradual improvement for the working classes of this country.

Enjoying an era of social reform such as we had not known before, with our hopes fixed upon the possibility of some of the ideals of the past materialising into the realities of the near future, we are suddenly plunged into the most awful and devastating war which the world has ever seen : and, day by day, pride, ambition, and lust of power is exacting its fearful toll, while the fatherless and widows throughout Europe mourn the loss of their loved ones.

The conferences held during the past year have been well attended, and have fully maintained the high standard of former years. We need to remember that these conferences are but opportunities for the supplying of seed, and that the sowing and the tending of its growth is the duty of the individual committees, a responsibility which must be undertaken earnestly and seriously if the seed is to bear fruit in due season.

The annual meeting was held at Wakefield on Saturday, 28th March, 1914, under the auspices of the Wakefield Industrial Co-operative Society, there being a good attendance.

The report and balance sheet were adopted unanimously, and the retiring officials were thanked for their past services.

The first quarterly conference was held at Harrogate on Saturday, 27th June, 1914, under the auspices of the Harrogate and District Co-operative Society, there being only a fair attendance of delegates. Mr. T. Hewitt read a paper on "Amalgamation." His idea of amalgamation was that it was essential, if competition was to be eliminated from the movement, and drew attention to the waste of energy and overlapping which existed under our present system. The discussion which followed revealed many and varied opinions, proving that we, as a body, are far from unity upon the question.

The second conference was held at Blackpool on Saturday, 26th September, 1914, under the auspices of the Blackpool Industrial Co-operative Society, and there was a very good attendance of delegates. Mr. W. Riley (secretary, Educational Committee) read a paper entitled "Some unconventional Ideas." He suggested new lines upon which the classes for employes and members might be developed ; drastic reductions in dividends in order to compete with private traders ; and all private manufacturers' goods to be sold at market prices without dividends. A lively discussion followed, the writer receiving some very strong criticism, to which he afterwards replied.

The third conference was held at Bradford on Saturday, 5th December, 1914, under the auspices of the City of Bradford Society, at which a paper was read by Mr. Isaac Holmes (member of Educational Committee) entitled "The Duties of Educational Committees during the present Crisis," there being a very good attendance of delegates. The paper called attention to

the need for increased attention to the formation of classes in Co-operation and Citizenship, and suggested that increased propaganda was essential in order to show what co-operation had done during the war panic. Also the need for the appointment of missionaries for organising purposes. A most interesting discussion ensued, and afterwards the committee were instructed to consider the question of increased propaganda work, and to appeal to the societies for increased financial support.

During the year there has been an attempt made to reduce the educational grant of one or two societies, but we are pleased to report that they were not successful. We would suggest that the best way to prevent these attempts to reduce grants is to make the educational department of each society a living, vital force, the influence of which shall permeate every part of the society's work.

We face the future with confidence, and although we would not venture to predict what the future has in store for the co-operative movement, we believe that when the history of the war is written, co-operation will have reason to be proud of the part which it has played in this great struggle.

With the end of the war many problems will arise. The vast debt which has been incurred will have to be paid. Upon whose shoulders will the burden be placed? We shall have to face the competition of capitalism in the form of trusts and combines, but the greatest difficulty which will confront us, and which confronts us to-day, is the apathy of our own members. The energies of educational committees and women's guilds must be exerted in this direction; every opportunity whereby this indifference may be removed must be utilised; and with a movement reinvigorated with a new birth of interest and enthusiasm we shall press onward to still greater achievements.

W. A. LEES, Secretary.

(5) SCOTTISH SECTION.

At the first meeting of the Scottish Sectional Board, held in Glasgow, on 6th June, 1914, the following, among other appointments, were made for the Congress year:—

Chairman : Mr. James Allan.

Treasurer : Mr. John Patterson.

Executive Committee..... Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans (secretary), D. McCulloch, J. Lochhead, J. Lucas, A. Purdie, J. M. Wilkie, and G. Wilson, with power to appoint sub-committees.

Representatives to the United Board... Messrs. G. Bisset and G. Wilson.

Representative to the Office Committee Mr. G. Bisset.

Representative to Central Board Education Committee... Mr. J. Lucas.

Representative to quarterly meetings of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited..... Mr. A. Purdie.

Representatives on the Joint Board of Arbitration, consisting of Representatives from the Scottish Sectional Board and the Parliamentary Committee of the Scottish Trades Union Congress :

Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans, G. Bisset, and J. Lochhead.

During the Congress year the Sectional Board has held eleven meetings, the attendance of members being as under:—

	Absent.	Present.
James Allan	0	11
George Bisset.....	0	11
James Deans	0	11
James Lochhead	0	11
James Lucas	3	8
Duncan McCulloch	0	11
John Patterson	1	10
Andrew Purdie	0	11
James M. Wilkie	0	11
George Wilson	0	11

In addition to the twelve meetings held by the Sectional Board, the Executive Committee have held numerous meetings at which a summary of the correspondence received between the meetings has been submitted and dealt with. Early in the Congress year the Executive Committee appointed Sub-defence and Education Committees, which have also held frequent meetings in connection with these important matters.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

This conference was held in the Town Hall, Alloa, on Saturday, 25th April, 1914, at which there was an attendance of 375 delegates, representing co-operative societies and other co-operative organisations from all parts of Scotland. There were also present a considerable number of visitors. Provost Strang (Alloa) was present at the opening of the proceedings, and, in a very able address, welcomed the delegates to the town of Alloa. The principal business of the conference consisted in the consideration of the annual report and balance sheet of the Scottish Section, the balance sheets of the Defence and Education Committees, the reports, balance sheets, and statistical statements of the ten Co-operative Conference Associations, and the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild; the amendments to the rules of the National Conference, and the defence scheme of the Sectional Board; also a paper by Mr. George Barnes, M.P., subject, "The Responsibilities of Co-operative Societies and Co-operative Employés to each other in settling such Questions as Wages, Hours, and Conditions of Service," which was much appreciated and for which he received the cordial thanks of the meeting.

The Sectional Board submitted amendments to three of the rules of the National Conference as follows:—

Rule 3, Office of the Conference.—Delete "50, Clarence Street," and substitute "263, Wallace Street."

Rule 4, Membership.—Delete "each branch of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild," and substitute "each Co-operative Women's Guild."

Rule 7, Representatives to Conference.—Delete last clause and substitute "and Co-operative Women's Guild shall be entitled to send one representative to the conference meetings."

Rule 3, as amended, was agreed to.

Rules 4 and 7.—After considerable discussion the proposed amendments were not considered definite enough, and were remitted back for consideration.

The following new rule was submitted and adopted:—

"The Scottish Sectional Board each year, early in January, will issue a notice to the committees of the co-operative societies and other organisations entitled to send delegates to the National Conference, intimating the date upon which the National Conference will take place in April, and requesting that any of these committees who may desire to submit motions to the National Conference should forward them to the secretary of the Scottish Sectional Board not later than 28th February, and the Scottish Sectional Board will issue copies of

such motions to these bodies, with a request that if they have any amendments to these motions they should be forwarded to the Section offices not later than the second week of March, with the object that such motions and amendments may be placed upon the agenda of business to be submitted to the National Conference."

The following proposed amendments to the Defence Scheme of the Sectional Board were submitted by the Greenock Central Society :—

Delete clause (d) and substitute the following :—"That candidates adopted by societies and conference associations should have two-thirds of their election expenses paid as follows :—One-third by conference association of candidate's area, and one-third from the Scottish Section Defence Fund, such expenses not to exceed a total grant of £10 from both sources for each candidate, or so far as the Defence Funds will allow."

Delete clause (e) and substitute the following :—"That co-operative interests should be safeguarded by the Scottish Section and Conference Committees drawing up a series of questions to be answered by every candidate adopted under the scheme, the Conference Committee of the area concerned to be satisfied with the answers of candidates prior to their adoption, and to have the power to decide number of co-operative candidates in any one district. All candidates must have been members of a co-operative society for at least one year, and possess the same qualifications as are required from committee-men of their society."

For the first proposed amendment the "previous question" was moved and agreed to. With regard to the second proposed amendment, after discussion it was agreed to, and the following new clause (f) submitted by the Sectional Board, was agreed to :—

"That the Sectional Board and Conference Committees should keep in close touch with the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union with regard to all matters affecting the interests of co-operative societies."

Mr. Goodbrand (secretary to the Border Counties Conference Association), on behalf of the conference association, extended a cordial invitation to the conference to meet next year in Selkirk. Mr. MacPherson, on behalf of Clydebank Society, extended a cordial invitation to the conference to meet next year in Clydebank. On a vote being taken Selkirk was agreed to by a large majority.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

It occurred to the members of the Sectional Board, immediately after the declaration of war, that there might be serious difficulties in carrying out the arrangements in connection with the meeting of the annual conference at Selkirk, and, to obviate such, the directors of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society were consulted to ascertain if, under the circumstances,

they would agree, subject to the consent of the committee of the Border Counties Conference Association, to the conference being held under their auspices in Glasgow. After giving the matter their consideration they agreed to the proposed change. The committee of the Border Counties Conference Association also readily gave their consent to this, and it was definitely fixed that the conference meet in Glasgow.

SPECIAL SECTIONAL CONFERENCES.

The Sectional Board at its meeting in July agreed that during the Congress year two special sectional conferences be held, the first in Glasgow, about the end of October, 1914, and the second in Edinburgh, about the end of January, 1915. It was afterwards agreed that, considering the disturbed state of the country in consequence of the war, these conferences be abandoned.

DEFENCE AND EDUCATION.

Early in May a circular letter was addressed to the committees of the district conference associations requesting them to draft schemes for defence and education work, suitable for their respective districts, for the ensuing autumn and winter, and forward same to the section. The Sectional Board also convened a conference, consisting of the members of the section and two representatives from each of the district conference associations, to consider and discuss the scheme submitted.

The conference was held at the section offices on Saturday, 20th June, 1914, and was attended by representatives from eight of the ten conference associations. Schemes *re* education work had been prepared and submitted by nine conference committees, and four committees had also prepared and submitted schemes *re* defence work. Several of the education schemes were of a very comprehensive nature, including classes of various descriptions, the circulation of literature, lectures, and general propaganda work. It was agreed that the schemes were a considerable advance upon those of the previous year, and they were remitted back to the conference committees to carry into effect, the section agreeing to render any assistance possible.

The scheme submitted by the section contained a proposal for the establishment of a summer school for Scottish co-operators, which was very favourably discussed and remitted to the section to secure further information regarding the nature and method in which these schools were conducted, and to arrange for a week-end meeting in some central district to discuss the whole question.

The question of organising demonstrations of junior co-operators at the productive works of federated societies in Scotland was also discussed, and remitted to the section to approach the directors of these federations for permission for the children to visit their works.

A discussion took place upon the financing of the schemes, and it was agreed that the section appeal to the federated societies for funds to finance

their education scheme, and that the conference committees appeal to the societies for special grants or for an increase in their subscriptions.

It was agreed that another conference be convened about the end of October to report progress made with the various schemes and to arrange for their further development.

The second conference was held in the section offices on Saturday, 24th October, 1914, and was attended by representatives from the committees of nine conference associations. Mr. McCulloch (treasurer to the section Defence and Education Funds) submitted a report as to the state of these funds up to date: Defence, £375. 4s. 2d.; Education, £101. 12s. 3d. Interesting reports were submitted detailing the progress made with defence and education schemes, which were, on the whole, of a satisfactory nature. It was evident that the crisis the country was passing through in connection with the war would considerably curtail educational effort, and that very few candidates had been put forward in connection with the November municipal elections.

The proposal of the section to convene meetings of those interested, at the Convalescent Homes, West Kilbride, during the new year holidays of 1915, to discuss the holding of an annual fraternal gathering to consider matters of moment to co-operation, and the establishment of a summer school for Scottish co-operators, was very favourably received and remitted to the section to proceed therewith.

AMALGAMATION AND OVERLAPPING.

The question of the amalgamation of societies has during the year been receiving considerable attention. The East of Scotland Conference Association is engaged in promoting a scheme for the ultimate amalgamation or federation of the societies within the conference district, and the scheme is being considered by the societies.

It is satisfactory to note that two societies in the East of Scotland conference district have recently been amalgamated—Dalkeith with Musselburgh, and Bonnyrigg with St. Cuthbert's. In the Glasgow and Suburbs conference district Hallside Society has been amalgamated with Gilbertfield Society, and the Holiday Association has been taken over by the United Co-operative Baking Society Limited.

There have been several disputes of an acute nature between societies about overlapping, which the section, with the assistance of the committees of the district conference associations in which these disputes have occurred, have endeavoured to settle on a satisfactory basis, but regret to report that they have not yet been successful.

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

With the object of promoting the spread of co-operation in the agricultural counties of Scotland the section issued a circular letter to persons in many of the counties whom they considered might be interested in this question,

explaining the advantages that co-operation was capable of conferring upon the agricultural workers, and desiring to know if they would be willing to assist the section in the formation of societies. The response, probably owing to the outbreak of war, was rather disappointing, but the section will not allow the matter to drop.

With the view of bringing the Scottish small landholders into closer touch and trading relationship with the co-operative movement the section arranged a conference, consisting of the directors of the Scottish Small Landholders' Association and representatives from the directors of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and the section. The conference was held in the office of the Small Landholders' Association, Edinburgh, and the question in all its bearings was discussed in a friendly manner, and much valuable information was given and received, but as yet there have been no practical results.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF JUNIOR CO-OPERATORS.

During the winter season the section organised four demonstrations, consisting of groups of twenty children, between the ages of twelve and fourteen years, from societies in selected areas. Two of the demonstrations were held in the premises of the United Co-operative Baking Society, McNeil Street, Glasgow, one at the Collinslee Factory of the Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society, and one at the clothing factory of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society in Patterson Street, Glasgow. The total number of children who attended the demonstrations was close on one thousand, and the interest they displayed and their behaviour were all that could be desired. The Education Committees of the societies which took part in the demonstrations arranged for the children preparing essays on their visits, and gave prizes for the best. The section also arranged on each of the occasions for the two best essays from each group being forwarded to them, and prizes were given to the three best essays sent in from each demonstration. The essays adjudicated upon reached a very high level, and were very creditable to the children. The section desire to acknowledge their obligation to the directors of the federations for permitting the children to visit their factories, and the generous manner in which they entertained the children; also to the conductors of the junior choirs of Cambuslang, Kinning Park, Paisley Provident, and St. George societies for their valuable services in entertaining the children.

PROPAGANDA WORK.

The greater part of the year has been spent in the North of Scotland. The meetings held in Buckie and the canvassing of the town resulted in the formation of a retail branch of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited. The shop was opened on 2nd May, 1914, with 300 members, and has proved very successful. It is believed that the success would have been even greater but for the fact that Buckie and the surrounding fishing towns have suffered severely on account of the war. A deputation from the Joint Propaganda Committee visited the North of Scotland, covering 33 towns and

villages, and, as a result of the report of the deputation, the Propaganda Committee decided to keep Mr. Maclean working in the north for some considerable time. Premises have since been taken in Banff and Forres by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and retail branches of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society will shortly be opened in these towns. In addition to the work in the North of Scotland, the propaganda agent spent some time in West Barns, Dunbar, and district assisting the East of Scotland Conference Association and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society in re-establishing and developing the late West Barns Society as a branch of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and restoring the confidence of the members in co-operation after their unfortunate experience. Kirkconnel Society had also the services of the propaganda agent, a number of new members being secured, and several old members won back. Glasgow and Suburbs Conference Association had the services of the propaganda agent for a fortnight in Lennoxton, Balfour, Aberfoyle, and Blairdrie societies. It is satisfactory to report that the propaganda work is being carried on in a very effective manner, and that the results are now becoming apparent in the increasing interest in the principles and benefits of co-operation in the communities which the agent has visited.

ANNUAL FRATERNAL GATHERING AND SUMMER SCHOOL.

With the object of ascertaining the views of the more active and enthusiastic co-operators in Scotland in the educational and propaganda features of co-operation, the section organised a series of meetings to consider and discuss these questions. The meetings were held at the Co-operative Convalescent Home, West Kilbride (the use of which was kindly granted by the directors for the occasion), on 1st and 2nd January of this year. There was an attendance of about 50 at each meeting.

At the meeting on 1st January, Mr. J. Deans introduced the subject of the Annual Fraternal Gathering, which was followed by a very interesting discussion. It was the unanimous feeling of the meeting that it would serve a very useful purpose if such gatherings could be held in different districts of Scotland annually, and it was remitted to the section to arrange for this if possible.

At the meeting on 2nd January, Mr. J. Lucas, M.A., introduced the subject of the proposed Summer School for Scottish co-operators, which was also followed by a very interesting discussion, and it was remitted to the section to make an effort to institute a school in some suitable centre during the ensuing summer.

The meetings were favoured with the presence of Prof. Hall, of Belfast, who gave very valuable information and counsel in relation to both subjects. The home was beautifully decorated, and the fine feeling of fellowship which permeated the meetings was a proof of the utility of such occasions, and will remain a pleasant memory to all who were present. As a result the section made arrangements for a fraternal meeting to be held in Glasgow on the

evening of the 23rd April, consisting of such delegates to the National Conference as might be disposed to attend, and action was immediately taken to secure, if possible, the establishment of a Summer School during the first two weeks of July. The section hope to receive the support of the National Conference in the realisation of this object.

THE RISE IN THE PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

The Sectional Board have, since the outbreak of the war, kept a close watch on the rise in the prices of commodities, and have been in communication with the Joint Co-operative Parliamentary Committee pointing out the necessity of bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to take over the control of food materials, and keep the prices as moderate as possible. It is satisfactory to note that the Joint Parliamentary Committee have been doing so. The Sectional Board also associated themselves with, and took an official part in, the conference convened by the War Emergency National Workers' Committee, to protest against the unreasonable increases which had taken place in the prices of food and fuel, and calling upon the Government to take action to remedy the existing state of matters. The conference was held in Glasgow on Saturday, 20th February, and was largely attended by representatives from all sections of the working classes.

THE WAR.

It is yet too soon to speak decidedly as to the probable or possible effects the war will have on the trade and prospects of co-operative societies in Scotland. It is, however, satisfactory to note that up till the present the membership, capital, and trade have not only been maintained, but have continued to increase in a satisfactory manner. A notable point is the marked increase in the capital of many of the societies, being a sign of thrift and confidence in the stability of the societies on the part of the members, which is most encouraging. It can, with truth, be said that, with the exception of the few days of panic following the declaration of war, the business of the societies has practically proceeded in the usual manner.

As there may be yet trying times awaiting the societies, it will be well for them to make ample provision while prosperous times continue for adequate depreciation of buildings and stocks and the building up of strong reserve funds.

There can be no doubt that the co-operative movement in Scotland, largely through the power and action of its great federated societies, has had considerable influence since the beginning of the war in steadying the markets and moderating the prices of the people's food—a convincing proof of the power which co-operation would possess in controlling and moderating the prices of commodities, not only in times of crisis, but in normal times, were it more largely developed and thoroughly organised in distribution and production than at present, and in possession of the sources of raw material and other supplies. It is, therefore, the duty of the educational and propaganda agencies of the movement to bestir themselves in making efficient

preparation for a great and united propaganda campaign at the close of the war. Never in the history of co-operation has a better opportunity arisen. Let us, therefore, make sure that it is not lost.

The co-operative movement in Scotland has good reason to be proud of the manner in which many of the young men associated with it have responded to the call to the Colours, and the splendid manner in which the women of the movement, both old and young, are doing their part. The manner in which the societies have risen to the occasion in subscribing to the numerous appeals for funds to alleviate the suffering which has fallen upon the people in this country and in Belgium is very gratifying. The members of the Sectional Board are confident that they express the sincere hope of every co-operator in Scotland that by the time the next National Conference comes round this awful and devastating war will be ended and an honourable and lasting peace assured.

CO-OPERATIVE HOMES ASSOCIATION.

The principal event in connection with the homes during the past year has been the opening of the Ardmore Home, Dunoon, for mothers and children, on 10th June, which makes three large, well-organised, and beautifully-situated homes now in the possession of the association. Previous to the outbreak of war there was every prospect of the homes experiencing a very successful year, and it is to be regretted that since the beginning of the war there has been a reduction in the number of patients at the homes, with a corresponding reduction of income. Ardmore has been taken over by the military authorities for the billeting of troops. The committee offered the hospitality of Abbotsview Home for Belgian refugees, but at this date it has not been accepted.

CO-OPERATIVE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION.

This association still continues its excellent work, which is greatly appreciated by the recipients of its assistance. The work of the association is worthy of all the generous support that co-operators can give it, and the Sectional Board hope that the generous support hitherto given it will not be in any way diminished but rather increased.

CO-OPERATIVE MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

This association still continues to make satisfactory progress in promoting the cultivation of music, principally among the children of co-operators in Scotland. Several of the junior choirs it has organised have distinguished themselves in competitions, and in rendering valuable services in educational and propaganda effort.

CO-OPERATIVE AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

This association still continues to justify its existence, and is developing the important work it has taken in hand in a most successful manner.

OBITUARY.

The Sectional Board desire to put on record their deep sense of the loss the co-operative movement in Scotland has sustained since last Congress through the death of Mr. John Barrowman (late manager, S.C.W.S. Branch, Dundee), Mr. Charles McPherson (late director of the S.C.W.S.), Mr. John McIntyre (bnyer, S.C.W.S.), Mr. Archibald Ewing (late manager, Alloa Co-operative Society), Mr. Adam Brown (secretary), and Mr. Robert Tweedale (director of the Co-operative Convalescent Homes Association), Mr. Wm. Henderson (chairman, Kilbirnie Society), Mr. John Ralston (manager, Kilwinning Society), Mr. James Dunn (St. Cuthbert's. Association, Edinburgh), Mr. Daniel S. Campbell (Kilming Park Society); and also the great loss co-operation in every country has sustained through the death of Mr. John Shillito (chairman of the C.W.S.); all of whom served the movement with conspicuous ability and untiring devotion.

JAMES ALLAN, Chairman.

JAMES DEANS, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—AYRSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Judge Flinn (president), Ardrossan.	Mr. James Hopes (auditor), Dalmellington.
Councillor Dunlop (treasurer), Galston.	
Mr. Wm. Anderson (secretary), Kilbirnie.	„ Hugh Stewart (auditor), Newmilns.
„ William M. Scott (statistical secretary), Kilbirnie.	„ Thomas Imrie, Stevenston.
	„ Samuel Clark, Kilmarnock.
	„ John Cosgrove, Hurlford.
	„ Robert Howat, New Cumnock.

The privilege is again ours to submit to you our record of work done during the year now gone.

The year 1914 will be a very memorable one in the history of Europe. Few, if any, had any thought in the opening days of the year that all our friendly relations with other nations would be so suddenly broken off, and the long desired and oft-dreamt of peace and brotherhood the world over would be swept aside, and war, with all its attending cruelties and appalling devastation and havoc, would be holding sway with a display of militarism never seen before. As co-operators, we regret that in this age such things should be possible, and we feel sure that all of us desire that peace will soon again be restored, and that it will be an abiding peace, which no one, be he King or Kaiser, will be able to break or set aside.

Trade up till the time when war was declared had been good all over our widely scattered area, and the societies, with few exceptions, were showing increased sales; but with the changes and unsettled state of affairs that have existed since that time, some districts have had quite a boom in trade, while in others the very opposite has been the case, works being partially or wholly closed, and the workers forced to seek fresh fields of labour, and all having an effect on the trade of the societies concerned. But yet, considering all the drawbacks and hindrances to a continued expansion of the movement in our district, and bearing in mind the great number of men who are at present serving their King and country in foreign lands, the trade of our societies, as a whole, shows increases that mark progress being made, and proves to all, if proof is required, that under any or all circumstances our movement is helpful to all who connect themselves with it, and they know it and realise its many benefits.

We again submit the four principal items from the statistical statement, and you will find from the comparison with this and the previous year the increases that have been made.

	Members.	Sales	Profits.	Capital.
1914	33,423 ..	£1,275,755 ..	£208,613 ..	£684,617
1913	31,427 ..	1,181,843 ..	189,968 ..	635,092
Increase for Year ..	1,996	£93,912	£18,645	£49,525

MEETINGS.

As in previous years, the aim of the executive has been to have subjects brought before the various meetings of a practical and helpful nature, so that the delegates attending same will not only be benefited themselves, but, through them, the members of their respective societies will be strengthened and stimulated to go forward with a wider outlook and a deeper insight into the great possibilities of co-operation.

The first conference or annual meeting was held at Patna on the 28th March, under the auspices of Patna Society, and was attended by 155 delegates. As this was the first occasion on which the association had visited the district with a conference meeting, it was quite an event in the village, and caused many of the villagers to turn out to see and hear what a co-operative conference meant. We trust that the visit was productive of good results to the local society. The annual report and balance sheet for year was approved of. Mr. William M. Scott (statistical secretary) submitted his statement for 1913, and in so doing he expressed the opinion that it was the most satisfactory report he ever had the pleasure of submitting. He also pointed out where further improvements might be made by societies to strengthen their position. A very interesting event at this meeting was a presentation to our old and valued pioneer of co-operation, Mr. William Dawson (Irvine), who had behind him a record of co-operative work that few, if any, could look back upon. It dates away back to 1867, beginning in Glasgow, and has continued right up till now. He was a member of the conference executive for ten years, and the response to the appeal issued to societies in our area was so generous that he received a purse of gold and a gold Albert and seal, also a silver cake basket to his wife, Mrs. Dawson. Judge Flinn, in making the presentation, paid a warm tribute to him for his work for co-operation. Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section) also gave Mr. Dawson great praise for his work of self sacrifice in the early days of the movement. Mr. Dawson's reply was full of reminiscences, and was enjoyed by all, though at times he was quite overcome by the kindness that had been bestowed on him. He was worthy, and may he and his good lady be long spared to enjoy the evening of their days and the fruits of their labours. £1. 1s. was granted to the Scottish Council for Women's Trades.

The second meeting was held at Stewarton on 27th June, under the auspices of Kilmarnock Society, and was attended by 151 delegates. A paper by Mr. John Clark (Perth), entitled "The Development of Co-operative Production," was read by Mr. William M. Scott (statistical secretary), and was well received by the delegates, and should be a means of stimulating thought on a very important subject. It should also help co-operative productions in their use in the homes of co-operators, and thus help in the development. Mr. William M. Scott (statistical secretary), who had attended the Co-operative Congress at Dublin, gave a few of his impressions, and returned thanks for his appointment.

The third meeting was held at Darvel on 26th September, under the

auspices of Darvel Society, and was attended by 167 delegates. Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section) introduced the subject for consideration :--" In view of the present national crisis, that a common policy be carried out by all societies with regard to (a) prices and supply of goods, (b) the advisability of reducing prices and paying of smaller dividends, (c) the withdrawal of capital, (d) assisting members in distress, (e) direct representation of societies on distress committees." He referred to the great war and its effect on societies. He counselled societies to remain as near normal as possible. He was against selling at cost prices with no dividend. If dividend was needed in normal times, it was more so in times of stress and trouble. Supply goods in normal quantities, and thus allow all members the same opportunity to obtain supplies. Capital should be husbanded very carefully, and not withdrawn unless necessary. The very practical address was much appreciated, and was truly a word in season, and brought confidence to many. After the close of the discussion, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Deans. A committee was appointed to revise the rules of the association, five being selected from the meeting and two from the executive.

The fourth meeting was held at Barrhead on 26th December, under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Laundry Association, and was attended by 166 delegates. Mr. A. S. Huggan read his paper on "Co-operative Production." This paper gives, from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's standpoint, the main reasons why production is so slow in advancing. It was an able paper, and gave a great amount of valuable information regarding the various departments of the Wholesale, and showed the need for more loyalty on the part of retail societies to the productions of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. The paper was very well read, and was very attentively listened to. Time did not permit of a discussion, so same was delayed till next meeting. £1 was granted to the Scottish Co-operative Musical Association.

A special conference was held at Galston on 2nd May, under the auspices of Galston Society, and was attended by 74 delegates. The subject for consideration was "Education and Defence Work in our District." Same was introduced by Mr. William Anderson (secretary) in an address which showed what had been accomplished during the past session, and outlined a scheme that might be undertaken during the coming winter, both in educational and defence work. A very animated discussion followed, and was taken part in by a great many enthusiastic educationalists, the whole tone of the meeting being hopeful for the coming session.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA WORK.

The educational work received a great setback by the outbreak of war, some societies having practically abandoned the work, while others have curtailed it to a great extent; but we would express the hope that, when once we resume normal conditions, societies will again pursue their educational work as before, as no one can doubt that an educated membership makes for strength, and is one of the best assets that any society can have.

Lectures have been given at and in connection with many of our societies, and they cannot have failed in securing recruits for the movement, as well as consolidating those already members, and made them what we desire all to be—co-operators.

Propaganda work has been carried out in various parts of our large district, the main effort being the visit of the propaganda agent, Mr. Maclean, to the southern part of the district. Good work was done, but better results would have been achieved if we had not had the great war going on at the time.

Some of our educational committees carry out very effective propaganda work, and we cannot but give credit to the work being done by Kilmarnock and Maybole to spread the good news of co-operation. Kilmarnock has succeeded in opening up a new district at Coylton, where a new branch has been opened, with new and commodious premises, very suitable for the trade in the locality, and the success of same is assured; while the Maybole committee, by their earnest and persistent efforts, are building up a good trade in the town and district right on to Girvan.

The women's guilds are doing their share in propaganda work for the societies, and have been able to perform much in the way of comforts for the soldiers and sailors during the winter months. We look for progress being made by the guildswomen, both in adding to the number of branches as well as membership, seeing that they have now a district of their own named Ayrshire. We welcome it, and trust that it will be able to accomplish much as an educational and propaganda power within our district, and unite with us in the good work.

We have made a strong effort to bring in those societies which are still outwith the membership of the Union or the Conference Association. We were partially successful, but there are still one or two societies outwith the fold that should be within.

During the year a scheme was prepared by us for the transferring of members from one society to another without the withdrawal from the membership of the movement; but, as the proposal necessitated the inclusion of the Wholesale Society as the clearing-house in the scheme, and the directors of same, when we approached them, could not see their way to take up the matter, we had to allow it to lie over in abeyance in the meantime.

We cannot review the past year without referring to the removal by death of two very prominent Ayrshire co-operators. Mr. William Henderson (Kilbirnie) was an outstanding figure, and during his long career played a prominent part in the movement. He died in harness, being found dead in bed after attending the directors' meeting the night previous. Mr. John Ralston (manager of Kilwinning Society) lost his life as the result of an accident which he received while attending a meeting of the United Co-operative Baking Society. Both were workers, and have left blanks to be filled.

Your executive has had a great amount of work again in connection with the vexed question of overlapping, and at present a case is on hand

which is difficult to settle. We trust that societies will seek more than ever to keep clear of each other's territory.

To the societies that have entertained the delegates at the various meetings during the year we tender our warmest thanks, and also to the Kilmarnock Society for the use of the educational committee room for all our executive meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash from	Ardsrossan	5	7	0	By Quarterly Meeting at—				
"	Auchinleck	3	6	8	Patna	19	1	4	
"	Beith	3	3	0	Stewarton	11	12	6	
"	Crosshouse	3	1	10	Darvel	15	6	3	
"	Catrine	3	1	8	Barrhead	21	12	0	
"	Co-operative News- paper Society Ltd.	0	10	6	" Committee Meetings	11	12	1	
"	Darvel	4	8	2	" Special Committee Meetings	8	18	0	
"	Dalmellington	1	12	8	" Attending other Conferences	12	10	9	
"	Dalry	2	8	6	" Visiting Societies—Propaganda ..	9	19	8	
"	Dreghorn	2	17	1	" Convalescent Homes Association ..	1	5	0	
"	Dumfries	10	3	11	" Co-operative Musical Association ..	1	0	0	
"	Fergushill	0	13	2	" Printing Account	13	3	6	
"	Glenbuck	0	9	1	" President's Salary ..	1	10	0	
"	Galston	5	3	4	" Secretary's ..	6	0	0	
"	Hurlford	3	17	3	" Statistical Secretary's Salary	1	10	0	
"	Irvine	3	16	4	" Treasurer's Salary	3	0	0	
"	Kilbirnie	6	13	5	" Delegate to Congress	6	11	10	
"	Kilmarnock	37	9	5	" Auditing Books	0	9	6	
"	Kilwinning	4	1	8	" Janitor	0	5	0	
"	Kirkconnel	0	8	1	" Secretary's Postage	3	19	9	
"	Muirkirk	2	14	2	" Statistical Secretary's Postage ..	0	2	6½	
"	Maybole	2	18	11	" Treasurer's Postage	0	8	3	
"	Mauchline	2	7	11	" Bank Charges	0	12	11	
"	New Cumnock ..	2	9	7	" Scottish Council for Women's Trades	1	1	0	
"	Newmilns	4	15	4	" Rules Revision Committee— Railway Fares	1	9	8	
"	Old Cumnock	1	12	6	" Kilbirnie towards Candidate's Expenses	1	10	0	
"	Patna	1	10	7	" Dalry towards Candidate's Ex- penses	0	10	0	
"	Paisley M'nufacturing Society	0	10	0	" Kilwinning towards Candidate's Expenses	1	10	0	
"	Stevenson	4	14	2	" Kilmarnock towards Candidate's Expenses	3	0	0	
"	Scottish Wholesale Society	5	0	0					
"	Scottish Laundry Association	0	10	0					
"	Scottish Section ..	3	0	0					
"	Scottish Co-operator ..	0	10	0					
"	Troon	3	16	8					
"	United Baking Society	2	0	0					
"	Wigtown and District	0	11	3					
"	Scottish Women's Guild—Central Council	0	2	6					
"	Kilmarnock Branch Women's Guild ..	0	2	6					
"	Ayr Branch Women's Guild	0	2	6					
"	Glengarnock Branch Women's Guild ..	0	2	6					
"	Kilbirnie Branch Women's Guild ..	0	5	0					
"	Beith Educ. Com'ttee	1	10	0					
"	Kilmarnock ..	3	3	0					
"	Irvine ..	1	0	0					
"	Maybole ..	1	1	0					
"	Stevenson ..	1	0	0					
"	Kilwinning ..	1	1	0					
"	New Cumnock ..	1	0	0					

Carried forward 152 3 10

Carried forward 159 11 6½

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	152	3	10
To Cash from Kilbirnie Committee ..	1	1	0
" " Paisley Manufacturing Society (Adverts.) ..	1	0	0
" " <i>Scottish Co-operator</i> (Advertisements) ..	0	10	0
" " United Baking Society (Advertisements) ..	1	0	0
" " Scottish Section towards Candidates' Expenses	6	10	0
" Interest	1	16	7
" Investment repaid	10	0	0
	£174	1	5
" Balance at 31st December, 1913 ..	13	3	5
	£187	4	10

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	159	11	6½
Audited— HUGH STEWART. JAMES HOPES.			
	£159	11	6½
" Balance at 31st December, 1914—			
In Bank	18	18	10
On hand	8	14	5½
	£187	4	10

WILLIAM ANDERSON, Secretary.

No. 2.—BORDER COUNTIES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. George Fisher (president), Innerleithen.	Mr. David Wright (auditor), Selkirk.
" T. J. Bolster (treasurer), Selkirk.	" David Cairns, Kelso.
" W. G. Goodbrand (secretary), Galashiels.	" Henry Aikman, Earlston.
	" Peter Shortreed, Peebles.

We have great pleasure in submitting the annual report of your executive, together with the balance sheet and statistical returns for another year which we trust will meet with your approval.

We deeply deplore this awful European War which broke out in the month of August with such tragic suddenness. Words fail us in expressing our sorrow that in this, the twentieth century, such an appalling calamity could not have been averted.

With the declaration of war our secretary, Sergeant W. G. Goodbrand (Galashiels), and our colleague, Sergeant J. Burrell (Earlston), were called up for military duty, and during the intervening months thousands from our district have answered their country's call, and we are proud of the fact that the proportion of the population of the South of Scotland who are serving with the colours is the highest in Great Britain.

The war, which has diverted the attention of our people from other subjects, has interfered with our educational propaganda, yet our educational committees and women's guilds have done a considerable amount of good work. All honour to the women's guilds who have excelled themselves in providing comforts for our brave soldiers, and to the societies who have assisted in supplying the funds.

We also desire to express our appreciation of your generous response to the appeal on behalf of the Prince of Wales and the Belgian Relief funds.

The Annual National Conference which was to have been held in Selkirk has, on account of the difficulty of securing hall accommodation

and railway facilities, been changed to Glasgow, and we regret that we will not be able to welcome our friends to the Border district this year.

The following statement indicates the position of the movement in this district :—

	Members.		Capital. £		Sales. £		Profit. £		Reserve Fund. £
1914....	10,772	..	172,078	..	430,617	..	76,846	..	17,028
1913....	10,721	..	174,989	..	431,935	..	77,938	..	16,323
Increase.	51	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	705
Decrease.	—	..	2,911	..	1,318	..	1,092	..	—

The annual meeting was held under the auspices of the Galashiels United Society in their own hall on Saturday, 21st March, 1914. Mr. James Harvey, president, presided. Mr. Brownlee, president of the society, gave the delegates a hearty welcome. There were 96 delegates present. The rules, as altered at the last meeting, were adopted on the motion of Mr. Little (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited) and Mr. Learmond (Innerleithen).

Mr. George Goodbrand was re-elected secretary and Mr. David Wright was re-elected auditor.

Mr. Harvey intimated that he had decided to retire from the office of president, and Mr. George Fisher (Innerleithen) and Mr. Richard Laidlaw (Hawick) were nominated for the vacancy.

The annual report and statistical returns were considered, Mr. Little (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited) drew attention to the amount of purchases from co-operative sources, and asked for some information. Mr. Gass (Hawick), Mr. Thomson (Peebles), Mr. Wright (Selkirk), and Mr. Laidlaw (Hawick) took part in the discussion, at the conclusion of which the report was adopted on the motion of Messrs. Little and Thomson.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, at a place to be arranged with the executive.

Mr. Ralston (Galashiels) then read his paper on the subject of "Co-operative Education." The discussion was taken part in by Mrs. McLean (Edinburgh), Mrs. Brown (Innerleithen), Mr. Wilkie (Greenock), Mr. Foulis and Mr. Little (Galashiels), Mr. Overend (Innerleithen), Messrs. Gass, Miller, Blake, and Laidlaw (Hawick), Mr. Bain (Alloa), and Mr. Pettigrew (Glasgow). Mr. Ralston was cordially thanked for his paper, on the motion of Mr. Laidlaw (Hawick).

The second meeting was held under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society in the Mission Hall, Jedburgh, on Saturday, 27th June, 1914. There were 114 delegates present, who received a cordial welcome from Mr. Little on behalf of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

Mr. Brownlee (Galashiels), on behalf of the conference, tendered to

Mr. Harvey, the retiring president, their warmest thanks for all he had done to advance the interest of co-operation during his term of office, and Mr. Harvey thanked Mr. Brownlee for his kind remarks.

For the office of president, Mr. George Fisher (Innerleithen) and Mr. Richard Laidlaw were nominated at last meeting, and upon a division being taken there voted for Mr. Fisher 57, and for Mr. Laidlaw 41. Mr. Fisher was there elected president.

Mr. David Cairns (Kelso) was nominated for re-election as a member of committee.

The prizes in connection with the Window-dressing Competition were presented to the winners as follows :—1st prize and silver cup, Galashiels ; 2nd prize, Selkirk ; 3rd prize, Hawick.

Mr. Storie (manager of the Galashiels Society), on behalf of the societies, thanked the conference and the Wholesale Society for the handsome prizes presented to them.

Mr. A. S. Huggan read his paper, the subject of which was "Co-operative Production," which was followed with close attention. The discussion was taken part in by Mr. Lochead (Section), Mr. Biggar (Glasgow and Suburbs Conference), Mrs. McLean (Women's Guild), Messrs. Gallacher and Little (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited), Messrs. Gass and Scott (Hawick), and Mr. Thomas Bolster (treasurer).

Mr. Huggan replied to the points raised in the discussion, and received a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. Thomson (Peebles).

It was agreed to hold the next conference under the auspices of Kelso Society.

Mr. James Kinnear, on behalf of the Galashiels United Society, gave notice of the following amendment to Rule 6, viz. :—

The committee, throughout their term of office, shall be limited to three consecutive years.

A special meeting of the association was held under the auspices of the Walkerburn Society in the Public Hall, Walkerburn, on Saturday, 21st November, 1914, when there were 75 delegates present. Mr. Fisher, in opening the meeting, expressed his appreciation of the honour which had been conferred upon him by his election as president of the conference.

Mr. Fisher, referring to the crisis caused by the awful European War, counselled societies to economise in everything, as no one could foresee what it would all involve. Mr. Goodbrand, the secretary, has been called up with the Territorials for service during the war, but, before leaving he had requested Mr. Neil O'Hara to call a meeting of committee and perform some other duties on his behalf, and the committee had asked Mr. O'Hara to continue to act during the secretary's absence.

Mr. Christison (president of the Walkerburn Society) gave the delegates a hearty welcome. He quoted figures showing the progress of their society during the past five years.

Mr. David Cairns (Kelso) was re-elected a member of committee, and Mr. Thomas Bolster (Selkirk) was re-elected treasurer. At the request of the Peebles Society it was agreed to delay the appointment of their representative on the committee until after the meeting of their members.

Letter read from Mr. Burrell (Earlston) resigning his position as a member of committee as he was now on military duty, and Mr. Henry Aikman (Earlston) was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. George Goodbrand was nominated for re-election as secretary.

Mr. James Allan (chairman of the Scottish Section of the Co-operative Union) delivered an able address, taking for his subject "The War and After—the Duties and Responsibilities of Co-operative Societies." At the conclusion of Mr. Allan's address, an instructive discussion took place, which was taken part in by Mr. T. N. Ralston and Mr. Foulis (Galashiels), Mr. Gerrard (chairman of the United Co-operative Baking Society), Mr. Deans (secretary, Scottish Section), Mrs. McLean (Women's Guild), Mr. Weir (Glasgow and Suburbs Conference), Mr. Little (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited), and Mr. George Gass (Hawick). Mr. Allan replied, and on the motion of the chairman, received a hearty vote of thanks. Mr. David Wright (auditor) who had received an appointment in Canada, received a hearty vote of thanks for his valuable services to the conference, and Mr. Thomas Storie (Galashiels) was nominated for election as his successor.

Mrs. T. A. Brown (Innerleithen) moved a resolution :—

That we urge the Government to deal generously with the soldiers and sailors who are disabled, and widows whose husbands fall in their country's service, expressing our opinion that 20s. a week should be the minimum

Mr. Foulis (Galashiels) seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Mr. James Kinnear and Mr. James Smith, on behalf of the Galashiels United Co-operative Society, proposed the following amendment to Rule 6, viz. :—

The business of the conference shall be carried on by a committee consisting of president, secretary, treasurer, and three ordinary members, whose term of office shall be *limited to three consecutive years.*

Mr. W. Christison (Walkerburn) and Mr. Little (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited) moved the previous question, and upon a division the previous question was carried by 33 to 17.

It was agreed to cancel the December meeting.

The committee desire to return their grateful thanks to the societies under whose auspices the conferences have met during the year for their kindness to those who attended our meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Contributions from Societies—				By Debit Balance	0	17	4
Hawick	18	8	6	„ Committee's Expenses	12	10	8
Galashiels United	9	11	10	„ Printing	6	1	7
Selkirk	5	0	9	„ Stamps and Stationery	2	2	7
Peebles	3	10	0	„ Delegates' Expenses	1	1	6
Inverleithen	2	3	6	„ Expenses of Window Dressing			
Walkerburn	1	7	6	Competition (including Prizes)	5	1	0
Kelso	1	15	8	„ Co-operative Literature	2	4	0
Jedburgh	0	10	6	„ Auditing Expenses	1	0	0
Earlston	1	8	4	„ Subscription to Convalescent			
Scottish Co-op. Wholesale Ltd.	5	0	0	Homes	1	5	0
Scottish Section Co-op. Union.	3	0	0	„ Secretary's Salary	3	0	0
United Co-op. Baking Society..	3	0	0	„ Cash in the Bank	25	7	3
Paisley Co-op. Manuf. Society	0	10	0	„ Cash in hand	2	18	2
Co-operative Newspaper Ltd..	0	10	6				
Scottish Co-operator	0	10	0				
Scottish Co-operative Women's							
Guild	0	2	6				
„ Advertisements—							
St. Cuthbert's Co-operative							
Association Ltd.	2	0	0				
United Co-op. Baking Society..	2	0	0				
Co-op. Insurance Society Ltd.	1	10	0				
Paisley Co-op. Manuf. Society	1	0	0				
Scottish Co-op. Wholesale Soc.	0	10	0				
„ Interest from Bank	0	4	6				
	£63	9	1				
							£63 9 1

Audited—
DAVID WRIGHT.

NEIL O'HARA, *Interim Secretary.*

NO. 3.—CENTRAL.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Brown (president), Wishaw.	Mr. David R. Lockhart (auditor), Motherwell.
„ Joseph Kay (vice-president), Car- luke.	„ Jas. Watherspoon, Bellshill.
„ John C. Kelly (secretary), Hamilton.	„ Matthews McPhail, High Blantyre.
„ Maxwell Bryce (statistical secre- tary), Burnbank.	„ William McRae, Hamilton Central
„ Robert Ellis (treasurer), Coatbridge.	„ Archibald Muir, Motherwell.

We have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval our annual report, balance sheet, and statistical statement.

	Members.	Capital.	Sales.	Profit.	Reserve Fund.
1913	43,407	£930,017	£2,270,872	£373,014	£60,439
1914	45,420	986,154	2,346,082	387,788	65,291
Increase	2,013	£56,137	£75,210	£9,774	£4,832

We regret to state that the year through which we have passed has no parallel in the annals of history.

Under these circumstances, so awfully horrid and revolting, we have the solace of knowing that the co-operative movement was the great educator of statesmen of every shade of opinion, and that the application of our principle became absolutely essential to save nations from utter ruin. We,

therefore, submit that, if a co-operative commonwealth is necessary in war times, it would confer its blessings upon all equally well, and indeed much better, in times of peace. Let us, therefore, learn the lesson, and the future can hold no fear.

From the foregoing figures you will marvel at the results achieved; however, we would remind you that a large portion of what appears as an increase has been caused, not by being able to chronicle a larger turnover of goods, but by the enhanced prices ruling. The patriotism of the co-operative leaders, who kept prices even as they are, will redound to our credit when we are not. This policy we urge you to continue throughout this deplorable crisis, and do not let dividend or any other end deter you.

MEETINGS OF DELEGATES.

During the past year four regular conferences were held. The attendances at all the meetings were exceptionally good, and again showed a marked increase over any previous year. The papers submitted and discussed were all of an excellent nature, applicable to present requirements. The discussions upon them were much better than in former days, and pleasing to listen to in most cases. New interests were awakened, new ideas imparted, and security of expression showed a marked improvement.

PAPERS DISCUSSED AT THE REGULAR CONFERENCES.

The first meeting was held under the auspices of the Hamilton Central Society, Mr. John Brown presiding; 222 delegates and visitors were present. Mr. Brown expressed his pleasure at meeting the delegates. He pleaded for loyalty and unity, and felt highly satisfied at the progress recorded. Mr. W. B. Small read a paper entitled "The Future of Co-operation." A good discussion ensued, and many hints of mutual advantage were interchanged.

The second meeting was held under the auspices of the Larkhall Society, Mr. John Brown presiding; 230 delegates and visitors being present. Mr. Brown expressed his pleasure and good wishes to the Larkhall Society. Mr. Wm. Gallacher (director, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) read a paper entitled "Industrial Unrest." The discussion ensuing was of a very high order, and for want of adequate time had to be adjourned. The meeting was a delightful one in every way.

The third meeting was held at Shotts, under the auspices of the Shotts Society; 190 delegates and visitors were present, Mr. John Brown in the chair. Mr. Brown expressed his pleasure at meeting under the auspices of the Shotts Society. He counselled loyalty and greater exertions. Mr. Wm. Gallacher (director, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) gave a synopsis of his paper, "Industrial Unrest." Again a delightful discussion ensued, and all felt elated.

The fourth meeting was held at Burnbank, under the auspices of the Burnbank Society, Mr. John Brown presiding, 250 delegates and visitors being present. This was the largest meeting on record. Mr. Brown

expressed the pleasure he had in meeting the delegates in Burnbank, and hoped that the meeting that day would help the Burnbank Society to a still greater measure of prosperity. Mr. Thomas McGhie (manager, Burnbank Society) read a paper entitled "Our Milk Supply." A discussion of a very high order ensued, in which many took part, and the information imparted must have been very valuable to many.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Twelve regular meetings were held, and four special meetings. The well-being of the movement was ever present, and many schemes were devised to still further the interests of the movement. The relations of our association to the societies and kindred bodies have been of the very best. Your committee visited many of the societies on varied topics, such as overlapping, membership, and education. They met with a good response, though as regards overlapping we regret to state that this pernicious system still exists to a great extent, and thereby belies the true meaning of co-operation. We are hopeful of an improvement in the future.

EDUCATIONAL.

Propaganda meetings have been held at various centres, the enthusiasm aroused being very gratifying. The horrors of the awful war have done great damage to the formation of classes, as so many of our young men rightly obeyed the call of King and Country.

OBITUARY.

With deep regret we have to again mourn the loss of many departed comrades. In this respect we have lost from our midst Mr. John Weir (Bellshill), who acted on the committee of this association for many years. His widow and family remain. Your committee issued an appeal for funds to the co-operative and trade union movements. The results so far are gratifying. We take this opportunity of extending our warmest thanks to the subscribers.

FUNDS.

As will be seen from our financial statement, our funds show a balance on the right side.

CONCLUSION.

We sincerely thank all the societies who have entertained us during the past year; also all who gave of their time and talent preparing and reading papers at our quarterly meetings. The large number of ladies and gentlemen who acted as stewards at our meetings we also thank. We thank all the subscribers to our funds, and all for labours bestowed upon us. In fullest measure we thank the directors of the Dalziel Society, Motherwell, who kindly allowed us the use of their boardroom for our committee and other meetings. Following is the financial statement for the year 1914.

No. 1.—STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1914.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	39	6	1	By Stamps	3	19	11
„ Subscriptions from—				„ Printing	11	12	9
Carlisle	2	3	9	„ Delegates' Expenses—Conference			
Hamilton Baking	2	2	0	and Travelling	22	9	9
Dalziel, 1913-14	27	9	6	„ Committee and Travelling	20	2	0
Scottish Co-op. Wholesale Soc.	5	0	0	„ Propaganda Expenses	5	1	0
Cleland	1	0	0	„ Congress	5	15	6
Hamilton Central	11	2	1	„ Secretary's Salary	3	0	0
Dykehead and Shotts	3	9	8	„ Statistical Secretary's Salary and			
Larkhall	3	0	0	Expenses	2	8	3
Moffat Mills, 1914-15	0	19	0	„ Treasurer's Salary	2	0	0
Coatbridge, 1913-14	29	4	7	„ Auditor's	0	10	0
Barrhead Laundry	0	10	0	„ Donation to Westbarns Co-op.			
Strathaven Laundry	0	18	2	Society	2	0	0
United Baking Society (shares				„ Donatio to Co-operative Homes.	1	5	0
repaid)	5	0	0	„ „ Musical Association.	1	1	0
Levensat	0	4	0	„ „ International Co-			
Auchenheath	1	1	9	operative Alliance	0	12	0
Glenboig	0	12	6	„ Teas	2	1	0
Crofthead	2	1	8	„ Balance	89	12	1
Hamilton Palace	1	0	0				
Scottish Section Co-op Union	3	0	0				
Coalburn	1	5	0				
Bellshill and Mossend	4	7	3				
Law	0	10	0				
Lanark	2	1	8				
Burnbank	3	9	10				
Larkhall Victualling	3	4	6				
Blantyre	3	10	0				
Chapelhall	1	8	0				
Co-operative News	0	10	6				
Scottish Co-operator	0	10	0				
Wishaw	6	9	2				
Drapery and Furnishing	0	10	0				
Newarthill	0	16	8				
United Co-op. Baking Society	3	0	0				
Larkhall Women's Guild	0	5	0				
Burnbank „ „	0	2	0				
Wishaw „ „	0	2	6				
Blantyre „ „	0	2	0				
Carlisle „ „	0	2	0				
Central Council Women's Guild	0	2	6				
Larkhall Victualling Women's							
Guild	0	2	0				
Hamilton Central Women's							
Guild	0	2	0				
Hamilton West Women's Guild	0	2	0				
Dalziel „ „	0	2	0				
Craigneuk „ „	0	2	0				
Bellshill Educational Dept	0	2	0				
Clydesdale Branch	0	2	0				
„ Received from Burnbank Educa-							
tional Dept. Printing A/c. re-paid	0	5	0				
„ Received as Interest on Share							
Capital from Coatbridge	1	6	10				
	£173	10	3				

Audited—
DAVID R. LOCKHART.

£173 10 3

STATEMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

No. 2.—FUND IN AID OF MRS. LAMOND AND FAMILY.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from previous year	77	1	6	By Amount paid to Mrs. Lamond ..	82	11	6
„ Subscriptions from—							
Hamilton Baking Soc.	2	0	0				
Cambuslang	1	0	0				
Lanark Provident	1	10	0				
Hamilton Palace (M.) Union..	1	0	0				
	£82	11	6		£82	11	6

No. 3.—FUND IN AID OF MRS. WEIR AND FAMILY.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions from—				By Amount Paid to Mrs. Weir	10	0	0
Levenseat	1	0	0	„ Balance in hand.....	30	10	0
Chapelhall ...	2	2	0				
Lanark	1	0	0				
Bellshill and Mossend	5	5	0				
Strathaven	0	10	0				
Hamilton Palace.....	1	0	0				
Scottish Co-operator	1	0	0				
United Co-op. Baking Society..	5	5	0				
Chapelhall Co-op. „ „	2	2	0				
Auchenraith (M.) Union	1	0	0				
Carlisle	2	0	0				
Dalziel.....	5	0	0				
Burnbank	2	0	0				
Hamilton Co-op. Baking Soc..	2	0	0				
„ Palace (M.) Union ..	1	0	0				
Drapery and Furnishing	2	2	0				
Paisley Manufacturing.....	2	0	0				
Moffat Mills	1	1	0				
Glenboig.....	1	1	0				
Wishaw	2	2	0				
	£40	10	0		£40	10	0

DAVID R. LOCKHART, Auditor.

J. C. KELLY, Secretary.

No. 4.—EAST OF SCOTLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. William Archbold (president), St. Cuthbert's.	Mr. Edward Young, Leith Provident.
„ George Peddie (sec.), Edinburgh.	„ George Gray, St. Cuthbert's.
„ Wm. Scott (treasurer), Edinburgh.	„ William T. Laing, St. Cuthbert's.
	„ Wm. Nimmo, Armadale.

Your committee have again the privilege of submitting for your approval the record of another year's satisfactory progress.

During the first half of the year our national life was running on normal lines, when, suddenly, friendly relations between nations snapped, and the holocaust of war was upon us.

Such momentous happenings could not fail to make some impression upon our movement. During the early part of the crisis it was regrettable

the display of human nature in the rush for certain commodities because prices became inflated. But after this temporary aberration more quiescent feelings prevailed. The members having adapted themselves to the new conditions, the volume of trade in our societies is showing pleasing increases, proving clearly that the great majority of our people believe that, in adversity as well as prosperity, it is to their best interests to abide by co-operative principles.

The following table, extracted from the returns, is here provided to show at a glance the substantial increases for the year :—

	Members.	Sales. £	Profit. £	Capital. £
1914.....	83,202	3,563,571	771,578	1,408,004
1913.....	80,061	3,387,583	741,484	1,333,014
Increase for year.....	3,141	£175,988	£30,094	£74,990

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES.

The first quarterly conference, or annual meeting, was held in Edinburgh, under the auspices of St. Cuthbert's Association. Mr. Archibald Johnstone (president of the conference) delivered an interesting statement on what he might call the annual stocktaking, reminding them that this was the close of his term of office, and trusted he had done something for the advancement of the movement. Mr. J. W. Bennet (chairman, St. Cuthbert's Association) welcomed the delegates, and was glad to inform them his society was still marching along the highway of progress, and their volume of trade proclaimed them the largest society in Britain. Musselburgh and Fisherrow Educational Committee, being the first of that denomination to apply for membership, was admitted with acclamation. Councillor William Archbold was elected chairman of the conference. The annual report and the business arising out of the minutes created so much interest that the paper on the agenda was postponed until next meeting.

The second conference took place in Pumpherston, on the invitation of West Calder Society. Councillor Archbold occupied the chair and reviewed the position of the movement in our area. Mr. Chalmers (chairman, West Calder Society) gave interesting statistics of his society during the past three years, showing marked progress. Mr. Greedy moved, on behalf of St. Cuthbert's—

That a special committee be appointed to consider and revise the rules of the association, and report to next quarterly meeting. Motion accepted. A paper was read by Mr. S. B. Fraser, entitled "How best can we Retain the Interest of Young Students in the furtherance of Co-operative Principles?" The paper was well read and was brimful of cultured thought, the reader being imbued with the great necessity and power of co-operative education. A good discussion followed, all those taking part expressing appreciation of the value of the suggestions advocated.

The third conference was held in Bathgate, under the auspices of the local society, and held in their own hall. Mr. Turner (chairman of their society) outlined their continued progress, and gave wise counsel as to the manner in which co-operators should act during the war crisis. Councillor Archbold occupied the chair, and drew attention to the horrors of the war which was now raging. He advocated that, as co-operators, we ought to stand out for peace, and moved the following resolution :—

That this conference desires to emphasise its opinion that the present international strife is contrary to the best interests of the democracy of all countries; and, further, calls upon the Government to take charge of all the food supplies in, or arriving in, the country, and so prevent the cornering of the necessities of the people.

This was adopted unanimously. On the report of the special committee appointed to revise the rules being submitted, the majority of the delegates were of the opinion consideration should be delayed for six months.

The fourth quarterly meeting found its venue in the Free Gardeners' Institute, Edinburgh, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society having invited the conference, not only to be entertained, but to discuss a paper by one of their managers. Councillor Archbold, presiding, drew attention to the passing away of Mr. W. Crawford (who had been one of our auditors for many years) and Parish Councillor Grieve. The delegates expressed their sympathy by silently standing in their places. Mr. James Young extended a welcome on behalf of his co-directors. Mr. A. S. Huggan read his paper on "Co-operative Production." This was an able paper from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's standpoint, giving a vast amount of valuable statistics, showing the proportion of goods produced in many of their departments to the value of trade which was actually done, the general argument being that it was necessary to have greater loyalty to wholesale productions on the part of the retail societies before the Wholesale could enter into new enterprises. A spirited and well-sustained discussion followed, many combating the theories expressed in the paper. Mr. Huggan, in reply, said he was well pleased with the discussion, only he would have liked his critics to be more specific, and indicate where a beginning to break new ground could be made. Mr. Neilson (St. Cuthbert's) moved—

That this conference supports the Labour Party's resolution in favour of pensions of £1 per week to the widows and orphans of soldiers who have fallen in the war.

This was accepted without discussion.

AMALGAMATION IN THE EAST OF SCOTLAND.

A special conference was held in Edinburgh on the 4th of April to consider Councillor Archbold's paper on "The Amalgamation or Federation of Co-operative Societies in the East of Scotland Area." Mr William Nimmo acted as chairman. There was a good attendance of delegates. After the paper was read an animated discussion followed.

Moved by Mr W. F. Stewart (Leith Provident Society)—

That this meeting, recognising the evils of competition and overlapping on the part of societies, is of the opinion that amalgamation within certain limits is the only remedy, and remits to the executive of the conference to take what steps they may deem necessary, in consultation with the undernoted groups of societies, with a view to amalgamation being effected at the earliest possible date.

1st group—St Cuthbert's, Leith Provident, Portobello, and Juniper Green.

2nd group—Musselburgh, Tranent, and Prestonpans.

3rd group—Dalkeith, Gorebridge, and Bonnyrigg.

Moved by Mr Bertram (Broxburn)—

That this meeting agrees to the principle of amalgamation, and that a special committee be set up, electing one member from each society, to consider further the details and possibilities of a scheme in the East of Scotland Conference area.

Moved by Mr Anderson (West Calder)—

That it be remitted back through the conference executive to the various boards to obtain powers from the members of their societies to enter into negotiations with a view to amalgamation.

The voting showed that Mr Bertram's motion had found favour with the delegates, and became the finding of the meeting.

In furtherance of this resolution, the executive convened a meeting, and thirteen societies sent representatives to form this committee along with the executive. A number of meetings have been held, and the committee have now exhausted their remit, having compiled a report and scheme, which has been sent out to societies. This pamphlet being now in the possession of the managing boards, the decisions of the members are awaited with interest.

AMALGAMATION.

It is with a feeling of satisfaction we record that two of our societies are amalgamating with neighbouring societies without waiting for the development of the larger scheme. These are Dalkeith with Musselburgh, and Bonnyrigg with St. Cuthbert's.

SPECIAL LAUNDRY CONFERENCE.

This meeting was appropriately accommodated in Leith on 30th May. Councillor Archbold presided, and there was a good turnout of delegates. The report which was submitted summarised the work of the committee and gave the terms, St. Cuthbert's Association and the Scottish Laundry Association were prepared to do the work for the members in this area. The executive simply laid the facts before the delegates without showing any preference. But they strongly recommended that the proposition of starting a new organisation should not be entertained, as it would be bringing further

overlapping into the movement. After discussion, Mr. M'Cairn's motion was agreed to—

That this conference accepts the report, and instructs the delegates to lay the information before their committees or general meetings of members.

We believe this policy has considerably enlightened the members on this important domestic industry.

WEST BARNs RELIEF FUND.

Almost a year having elapsed since this society went into liquidation, the executive were anxious to get the handsome sum distributed which the co-operators had so generously contributed. Our intentions were to allocate in May, but the intricacies of the Bankruptcy Laws were considered, and for prudent reasons this was postponed until later in the year.

The sum at the disposal of the committee being about £1,980 (particulars of which are appended), a dividend of 6s. 5d. per £ was arranged to be paid in the shop which is now the West Barns Branch of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. This took place on Saturday, 19th September, and might well be called a joy-day in the village.

On the Friday following a propaganda meeting was held in Dunbar, being largely attended by the co-operators who had participated in the substantial sympathy of the co-operators of Scotland. After rousing addresses were delivered by Councillor Archbold and Mr. Neil M'Lean, Mr. Martin (Dunbar) feelingly expressed the thanks of the recipients of the fund, and presented an address, signed by over 200 members, to the care of the secretary.

It is gratifying to learn that the sales both at Dunbar and West Barrs have increased greatly since this event, and the executive hope to see representatives from this district at the conference meetings at an early date.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA WORK.

Special Conference.—It is now recognised that an annual gathering of delegates from educational committees is helpful in the arranging of the winter's programme, St. Cuthbert's boardroom having been placed at our disposal. A good representation of societies was present. Councillor Archbold presided. The secretary submitted a scheme which had been prepared for consideration, but would be open to any suggestion. This included a Scottish Section lecture, propaganda meetings, managers' training centre, and classes for Book-keeping, Economics, &c. This scheme was generally approved, and a pleasant interchange of opinions ensued, which was calculated to stimulate our energies in this important work.

Propaganda Meetings.—Active propaganda work has been engaged in during the year by the executive. Meetings have been held at Addiewell, Musselburgh, West Calder, Winchburgh, Penicuik, Armadale, Leith, and Pumpherston. At Broxburn an address was delivered by Mr. Neil M'Lean, on "What Co-operation can do for the People," under the Scottish Section

lecture scheme. All the other meetings were addressed by the chairman and the members of the executive. Practical difficulties of the societies were discussed, and the scheme of amalgamation has been advocated. In some cases questions have been invited, which has afforded the opportunity to throw some light on points considered obscure. The audiences have been intelligent and appreciative, being a source of delight to those who had the pleasure of addressing them. Counter attractions are so numerous in this age—every village having its picture house—that without some inducement our efforts would be without success. To provide this an efficient musical party has been in attendance at all the meetings, and they have been duly complimented on the excellence of their programmes. The commingling with the members of the local societies has engendered a finer spirit of comradeship, and reciprocal expressions of esteem have emanated from coming into closer intercourse with each other. The after effect of this work is bound to stamp its impress upon the movement.

Managers' Training Centre.—Although we are eager to forward co-operative education, we are at the same time anxious to conserve the funds of the association. The Edinburgh School Board, being approached to take up this class, have shown a commendable public spirit, and are running this class in their continuation school. They have also accepted the services of our teacher Mr. J. Taylor (branch manager, St. Cuthbert's), under whose tuition the class is making good progress. At the opening of the session in Tollcross School, Edinburgh, fifteen students were enrolled.

Book-keeping Class.—This has been rather a trying year for class work, so many of our young men being in training for the defence of the country. Two of our classes have been transferred to the local educational committees, viz., Musselburgh and Arnamdale. Still, we are directly responsible for a rigorous class at Bathgate, and a large class has been formed at Tranent.

WORK OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES.

To the societies that are doing so much for education we would wish all success. St. Cuthbert's, Leith Provident, Broxburn, Arnamdale, and Musselburgh educational committees have in operation their classes for Book-keeping, and some of them are teaching Citizenship, Industrial History, and Economics. The young people are being attracted through singing classes, kinderspiels, &c., and one of our societies has both orchestral and vocal combinations of a high order, all endeavouring to train and discipline our many-sided natures.

Women's Guild.—The work of this kindred association is still progressing with its wonted enthusiasm. The conference had the pleasure of welcoming to membership Arnamdale Society's women's guild and the executive of Section IV. women's guild. Their syllabuses are again of a high standard, but in sympathy with the times some of the social functions have been suspended. The speakers' class for women, under the able tuition of Mrs. Lamont, should be of a high educational value.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

In April, 1914, Portobello Society celebrated its jubilee, and the all-embracing nature of the functions gave every one an opportunity of taking part in it. On 1st April a soirée and concert was given to the members in the Concert Hall, Marine Gardens. During the proceedings the president (Mr. Martin) presented to the Co-operative Mothers' Home, Dunoon, a cheque for £20. In the name of the Home's committee, Mrs. Lamont accepted the handsome donation. On 4th April a children's fete was held in the Sports Ground, Marine Gardens, for the members' children, and on 8th April a dinner was given to the directors and employés and their partners. In July the manager and Mrs. Semple were presented with handsome gifts by the members of the society, which brought to a conclusion an eventful time in the history of this society.

To the societies that have so generously entertained the delegates at the quarterly and special conferences, the committee would extend their warmest thanks. Along with these we would express our unstinted appreciation of the attention and courteous treatment bestowed upon us at all times, believing that they are the means of bringing about closer union. We also take this means of expressing our gratitude to the gentlemen who so assiduously assisted us in producing our amalgamation scheme, and also in the distribution of the West Barns Relief Fund.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1913	.....	20	12	11½	By Committee's Expenses	.....	18	13	3½
„ Bank Interest, &c.	.....	0	17	7	„ Delegations	.....	18	17	0
„ Advertisements	.....	6	0	0	„ Delegate to Dublin Congress	.....	10	0	0
„ Contributions from Societies—					„ Propaganda Meetings	.....	48	7	6
Armadales	.....	2	14	2	„ Printing Account and Stationery	.....	23	14	9
Armadales Women's Guild	.....	0	2	6	„ Teachers' Honorariums, Stationery, &c.	.....	26	8	0
Bathgate	.....	4	18	0	„ Hall Rents for Classes	.....	2	1	6
Bonnyrigg	.....	1	0	0	„ Remitted to Treasurer, Labour Party, Edinburgh School Board	.....		
Broxburn	.....	3	8	8	Election Expenses	.....	10	0	0
Broxburn Women's Guild	.....	0	2	6	„ Remitted to Mr. Nimmo, School Board Election Expenses	.....	1	0	0
Co-operative News	.....	0	10	6	„ Remitted to Treasurer, Labour Party, Edinburgh Municipal Labour Election Expenses	.....	5	0	0
Dalkeith	.....	2	0	0	„ Subscriptions—				
Gavieside	.....	0	8	3	Scottish Council for Women's Trades	.....	2	0	0
Gorebridge	.....	2	18	5	Convalescent Homes	.....	1	5	0
Haddington	.....	2	11	3	Co-operative Union	.....	0	10	0
Hillwood	.....	2	10	0	International Alliance	.....	0	12	0
Juniper Green	.....	1	14	1	Railway Nationalisation Soc.	.....	0	10	6
Leith Provident	.....	8	10	0	„ Secretary's Salary	.....	7	0	0
Leith Provident Women's Guild	.....	0	2	6	„ „ Postal Charges	.....	2	0	0
Musselburgh and Fisherrow	.....	8	4	0	„ Treasurer's Salary	.....	3	0	0
Musselburgh Educational Com.	.....	0	5	0	„ „ Postal Charges	.....	0	11	0
Musselburgh Women's Guild	.....	0	2	6	„ Commission on Cheques	.....	0	5	0
Paisley Manufacturing	.....	0	10	0	„ Auditors' Fees	.....	0	11	0
Penicuik	.....	4	0	0	„ Cash in People's Bank	.....	5	17	10
Penicuik Women's Guild	.....	0	2	6	„ „ Treasurer's hands	.....	2	19	10
People's Bank	.....	0	15	0					
Portobello	.....	2	2	1					
Portobello Women's Guild	.....	0	2	6					
Prestonpans	.....	1	11	8					
Printing Co., Edinburgh	.....	1	0	0					
Scottish Section	.....	3	0	0					
Scottish Co-operator	.....	1	0	0					
S.C.W.S.	.....	5	0	0					
S.C.W.S. Employés' Assoc.	.....	0	10	0					
Carried forward	.....	89	6	7½	Carried forward	.....	191	4	7½

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	89	6	7½
To Contributions from Societies—			
Scottish Women's Guild.....	0	2	6
St. Cuthbert's	47	14	3
St. Cuthbert's Women's Guild—			
Central	0	2	6
Northern Branch	0	4	0
Eastern Branch	0	3	0
Norton Park Branch.....	0	2	6
Southern Branch	0	2	6
Broughton Branch.....	0	2	6
Western Branch.....	0	2	6
United Co-operative Baking..	3	0	0
Tranent	5	15	5
West Calder	8	1	0
Remitted from United Baking			
Holiday Associations Shares	2	0	0
Educational Grants—			
From Scottish Section	15	0	0
From Co-operative Union ..	1	19	1
Grant from Scottish Defence			
Fund—			
School Board Labour Election			
Expenses ..	10	0	0
Mr. Nimmo's School Board			
Election Expenses.....	1	0	0
Municipal Labour Election			
Expenses	5	0	0
Grant from Scottish Section			
Propaganda Lecture.....	1	6	3
	£191	4	7½

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	191	4	7½

Auditors—
WM. COLVILLE.
JAMES C. CESSFORD.

£191 4 7½

GEORGE PEDDIE, Secretary.

WEST BARNs RELIEF FUND.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

	£	s.	d.
Receipts.			
To Contributions from Societies...	1963	16	0
„ Interest from Bank.....	20	3	8

Auditors—

WM. COLVILLE.
JAMES C. CESSFORD.

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure.			
By Donations paid out in the Branch			
on 19th September.....	1796	11	9
„ Donations forwarded per post..	145	18	0
„ Donations to Penny Bank			
Depositors.....	24	16	8
„ Printing Account.....	2	8	3
„ Halls, &c.....	1	11	0
„ Honorariums for Accounting			
and Clerical Work	2	5	0
„ Shopmen's Outlays & Postages	0	11	4½
„ Committee's Expenses	8	5	0
„ Secretary's Outlays, Postages,			
and Carriages	0	15	5
„ Treasurer's Receipts & Postages	1	11	2
„ Commission on Cheques	2	15	1
„ Auditors' Fees	0	10	0
„ Balance	1	1	4½

£1983 19 8

£1983 19 8

No. 5.—FALKIRK.

Executive Committee.

Ex-Bailie Loney, J.P. (president), Denny.	Mr. Jas. M. Burns, Camelon ; Mr. G. Walker, Grahamston (auditors).
Mr. Robert Newlands (treasurer), Camelon.	„ H. Rule, B. and G. Baking.
„ Thomas Johnston (secretary), Fal- kirk.	„ H. Brock, Grangemouth.
	„ G. Mc'Nair, Stenhousemuir Bkg.
	„ G. Downie, Bo'ness.

Life Members of the Association :

John Liddell (late Treasurer). Robert Marshall (late Secretary).

It is with pleasure we submit our annual report, statistical statement, and balance sheet for the past year. Whilst in some parts of our area the war has had its effect on the business of several of the societies, taken as a whole, trade has been well maintained. Government work has been plentiful in the manufacturing districts, whilst the demand for coal has kept our members in the mining districts fairly well employed. The prospects were brighten the first half of the year, but with the declaration of war, early in August, trade in the country came almost to a standstill. As time went on, and the confidence of the country was restored, trade gradually improved, and the returns for the year show the confidence of the members in our movement.

In summarising the statistical report, it is gratifying to note that our sales amount to over £1,000,000. Membership has increased by 1,245 ; sales, £49,722 ; profits, £20,497 ; capital, £16,008 ; and reserve funds, £2,235. The contributions for educational and charitable purposes have increased by £374, whilst the number of employes has increased by 29.

The following statement will show at a glance the position in 1914 as compared with 1913 :—

	Members.		Capital.		Sales.		Profit.		Reserve Fund.
1914..	24,450	..	£449,496	..	£1,042,880	..	£183,935	..	£24,483
1913..	23,205	..	433,488	..	993,158	..	163,438	..	22,198
Increase.	1,245		£16,008		£49,722		£20,497		£2,235

It is hoped that this state of affairs will continue ; but, with the war still raging in all its bitterness, it lies with the boards of management to exercise the strictest economy, with efficiency, in conducting the business for which they are acting as trustees for the members. The rise in prices has materially affected the purchasing power of the member. The pinch may not be felt so much by those whose wages have been steady, but where the wages are uncertain, quiet and unobtrusive suffering must be the lot of those so placed. Our motto stands : " Each for all and all for each." Would it be out of place to suggest that committees, instead of maintaining dividends at the same ratio as when prices were normal, should reduce prices even at the sacrifice of the dividend ?

With the closing of the ports in the upper reaches of the Forth, the Bo'ness and Grangemouth societies will probably be rather hard hit. It is hoped that the schemes under consideration to utilise the resources of both these towns will materialise, and no undue suffering will take place.

We regret to record the death of Mr. George Robertson, manager of the Laurieston Society. Although not coming prominently into notice, in his own quiet way he held the esteem of all those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He had a great admiration for the Book-keeping classes, and never lost an opportunity of impressing upon the younger employes the advantages to be obtained in attending the classes.

In educational matters your council arranged two special conferences, which were held in Longcroft and Falkirk respectively. The paper under discussion was "The Balance Sheet," prepared and submitted by Mr. A. Henderson (Glasgow). In the course of discussion some valuable information was obtained, which will be of great advantage to boards of management when discussing their own balance sheets.

For a number of years Book-keeping classes had been conducted by the association, but, owing to the facilities afforded at the continuation classes held under the auspices of the school boards, it was considered unnecessary for the association to overlap in this direction.

To carry on, however, the education of those who had obtained Book-keeping certificates, it was decided to conduct a Salesmanship class. Unfortunately, success did not attend our efforts. A fairly large number of employes agreed to attend, but not in sufficient numbers to form a class, and we had reluctantly to abandon the idea.

Your council had repeatedly been approached to form a Speakers' class, and to meet the wishes of those interested all necessary arrangements were made to form a class, even to the provisional appointment of a teacher; but here, again, the lack of interest was manifested, as only a very few members expressed their willingness to attend.

Whilst we believe, had the times been normal, we should have had no difficulty in carrying on these classes, still the times through which we are passing have had the effect of turning our attention to matters of more immediate serious consideration. Although these classes are abandoned for this session, the matter will be kept before us, and at a more seasonable time will again be brought before your notice.

As far as the educational work of the women's guild and educational associations is concerned, the war has had no serious effect on the carrying out of the programmes arranged for the usual winter's work, the attendance at all the meetings being fully maintained.

The appeal to our guildswomen for comforts for our brave soldiers and the poor Belgians met with a hearty response, and the kindly acknowledgments received were a fitting reward for the labour of love.

During the year the usual quarterly conferences have been held. The attendance at these quarterly meetings is very encouraging, and the discussions on the various papers submitted were well sustained.

The 'first quarterly conference was held at Grangemouth, under the auspices of the Grangemouth Society. Mr. Robert Newlands was appointed Treasurer for twelve months, whilst Mr. George M'Nair was appointed member of council for a similar period. It was also agreed to nominate ex-Bailie Loney as a suitable candidate for the Scottish Section, whilst the appointment of delegate to Dublin Congress was left with the council. Mr. Scott (manager of Kilbirnie Society) read a paper of considerable interest to all present. At this conference the question of the Drapery and Furnishing Co-operative Society, Glasgow, circularising members of co-operative societies in the conference area was severely condemned.

The second conference was held at Condorrat, under the auspices of the Condorrat Co-operative Society. The chairman intimated that during the coming season they intended holding lectures for committee-men, Managers' class for employés, and Speakers' class for all who might wish to attend. Messrs. George Downie (Bo'ness) and H. Rule (Bainsford and Grahamston Baking Society) were elected members of council for twelve months. Mr. Bisset (Scottish Section) attended, and read the paper, "The Duties of Committee-men." An interesting discussion followed. The cup and badges won in connection with the recent window and shop dressing competition were presented to the successful competitors.

The third conference was held in the St. Mungo Hall, Glasgow, under the auspices of the United Co-operative Baking Society. War had just been declared, and the effect was seen in the demeanour of the delegates. Whilst everything was done for the comfort of those attending the meeting, the struggle which the country had entered upon, and the end of which no one could foretell, cast a shadow over the whole proceedings. Mr. Thomas Johnston was appointed secretary for twelve months, whilst Mr. H. Brock was appointed member of council for a similar period. Mr. Young read an interesting paper on the rise and progress of the federation, and also the method of conducting their huge business. The delegates were to have visited the Clydebank Bakery, but as horses and vehicles had been commandeered by the Government, this part of the programme could not be carried out.

The last conference was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Graham's Road, Falkirk, under the auspices of the Grahamston and Bainsford Co-operative Society. Ex-Bailie Loney was appointed president for twelve months, whilst Messrs. Burns and Walker were appointed auditors for the same period. Bo'ness Women's Guild were admitted members of the association. Mr. James Park (manager, Avonbank Co-operative Society) attended, and read his paper on "Stocktaking," supplementing his remarks on the duties of the boards of management during the present crisis.

We have again to express our warmest thanks to the societies under whose auspices we have met during the year, and for the cordial welcome and generous hospitality they have extended to all those attending the conferences.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from previous year	55	18 2	By Committee's Expenses	23	2 2
„ Bo'ness	10	15 0	„ Delegations	6	8 0
„ Bainsford and Grahamston			„ Travelling	11	12 8
„ Baking	12	17 11	„ Purveying for Quarterly Meetings	13	10 0
„ Cumbernauld	1	5 3	„ Co-operative Union Subscription	0	10 0
„ Camelon	5	19 1	„ Insurance of Cup	0	2 6
„ Condorrat	1	4 1	„ Delegate to Congress	6	0 0
„ Carronhall and Kinnauld	0	10 1	„ For reading Papers	3	8 0
„ Carronshore Baking	1	5 0	„ Purveying for Special Conferences	3	12 6
„ Denny and Dunipace	4	5 1	„ Book-keeping Classes	13	8 9
„ Grangemouth	5	18 9	„ Trades Council re Candidates'		
„ Grahamston and Bainsford	12	8 0	„ Expenses	6	0 0
„ Laurieston	1	8 2	„ Printing and Stationery	9	1 10
„ Longcroft	3	10 7	„ Postages and Carriages	3	13 10
„ Redding	12	5 6	„ Hires	0	10 6
„ Slamannan	4	1 6	„ Cup Competition Expenses	7	11 9
„ Stenhousemuir Equitable	3	16 4	„ Auditors	0	14 8
„ Stenhousemuir Baking	3	19 6	„ Secretary's Salary	5	0 0
„ Camelon Educational	0	10 0	„ Treasurer's Salary	2	0 0
„ Grahamston and Bainsford and			„ Cash in hand and in Bank	57	16 4
„ Bainsford and Grahamston					
„ Educational	0	10 0			
„ Bo'ness Women's Guild	0	5 0			
„ Camelon Women's Guild	0	5 0			
„ Carron Women's Guild	0	5 0			
„ Denny and Dunipace Women's					
„ Guild	0	5 0			
„ Grangemouth Women's Guild	0	5 0			
„ G. & B. and B. & G. Women's					
„ Guild	0	5 0			
„ Stenhousemuir Women's Guild	0	5 0			
„ Central Council S.C.W. Guild	0	2 6			
„ Scottish Co-op. Wholesale Soc.	5	0 0			
„ Scottish Section	3	0 0			
„ Scottish Section Defence Fund	6	0 0			
„ Scottish Section Bookkeeping	5	0 0			
„ United Co-operative Baking					
„ Society	3	0 0			
„ Scottish Laundry Association	1	10 0			
„ Scottish Co-operator	1	0 0			
„ Co-operative Newspaper Society	0	10 6			
„ Bookkeeping Students' Fees	4	0 0			
„ Interest from Bank	0	17 6			
	£174	3 6		£174	3 6

Audited—

JAMES M. BURNS.

GEORGE WALKER.

THOMAS JOHNSTON, Secretary.

NO. 6.—FIFE AND KINROSS.

Executive Committee :

Mr. Peter McConnell, J.P. (president),
Kirkcaldy.
„ George Spalding, J.P. (treasurer),
Dysart.
„ John Patterson (secretary), Burnt-
island.

Mr. John Balfour, Pathhead.
„ A. H. Gillespie, J.P., Buckhaven.
„ John King, J.P., Cowdenbeath.
„ Wm. M. Watson, Cupar.
„ George Wright, Dunfermline.
„ D. Peebles (auditor), Dunfermline.

We have again the duty and pleasure to submit for your consideration and approval a record of the work of the association for the year. The period covered by our report at this time will be a memorable one in the

history of our country. As we followed our usual work and duty amongst the societies in the district during the opening months, few, if any, thought that the closing months of 1914 would witness a war of such magnitude and attended with such devastation and cruelties as has been witnessed and chronicled during the past months. We feel sure we but echo the wish and desire of all connected with our movement that an abiding peace may soon be restored amongst the nations warring with one another, and the way opened for our international movement to renew its work of fraternity and brotherhood amongst the nations.

Reports that had reached us previous to the outbreak of war gave us hope of having to report a very successful year of trade in our district. While the exigency of the war on the oversea trade of the coal industry and the great number of our members and their sons who are serving their country abroad has had a serious effect on not a few of our societies, we are pleased to note that the general trade in the district has been well maintained, and we have every cause to be satisfied with the progress made and the position of financial stability during the early period of the war crisis was a factor in the prevention of abnormal prices being charged for the people's food.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

The first meeting was held at Leven in February, under the auspices of Leven Reform Society. Mr. William Graham (manager, Burntisland Society), at the request of the executive, introduced the question of "The Opening of a Branch of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale in the District," and in an able paper submitted reasons for the district requesting that this be considered by the directors of that institution. The question was favourably received, and remit made to executive to convene meeting of the managers to take steps to have the subject submitted to the directors of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The second meeting was held in May, under the auspices of Buckhaven Society. The annual report, statistical, and cash statements were submitted and considered. Messrs. Peter McConnell and George Spalding were re-elected president and treasurer, and Messrs. Balfour and Burt were re-elected members of the executive. Mr. Barnes' paper, "The Responsibilities of Co-operative Societies and Co-operative Employés to each other in settling such questions as Wages, Hours, and Conditions of Service," was considered and discussed, when it was resolved—

That the executive arrange that copies of the paper be put into the hands of all employés in the district.

The third meeting was held in August at Guardbridge, under the auspices of that society. Mr. Spalding (treasurer) read an interesting paper entitled "Suggestions, suitable for our District, on Educational Programme of Co-operative Union." Mr. A. H. Gillespie (Buckhaven) was elected to the executive in place of Mr. Burt (Kelty) deceased.

The fourth meeting was held in November in the central premises of Markinch Society. All the halls having been taken by the military

authorities, much credit is due to the management of the society for providing, under the circumstances, so suitable and comfortable a meeting place. Mr. Bisset (Aberdeen) read his paper, "The War and After." Most of those who took part in the discussion were opposed to the views of Mr. Bisset.

OTHER MEETINGS.

Several meetings of managers along with the executive have been held to consider remit as to the question of a branch of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society in Fife. Information and statistics as to trade done had been collected and tabulated for submission, but it has been considered advisable to hold the matter over during the war crisis.

A special educational conference of representatives from educational committees was held at Pathhead in the month of April, when it was agreed that an endeavour be made to form a class on Industrial Co-operation at Crossgates and a Managers' Class at Pathhead. Mr. Marr (Cowdenbeath) very willingly consented to teach the Managers' Class, but difficulties that were found insurmountable were met in arranging for someone to take up the class at Crossgates, and which we regret had to be cancelled. The half-holiday not being held on the same day all over the district has been found a serious matter when arranging such classes.

The executive has during the year held twelve meetings, making arrangements for conference meetings, and, as opportunity offered, holding interviews with the management committees of the societies under whose auspices we met. We have to note, as a result of such interviews, an addition to the number of societies that are members of the Co-operative Union.

A report of co-operative propaganda in this district would be incomplete without special reference being made to the work of the women's guilds, especially their efforts at this time to provide comforts for our soldiers and sailors during the winter months. Not the least acceptable feature of their work in some branches was the providing of healthy recreation for so many of the young men removed from their homes.

OBITUARY.

We have again to record with deep regret the passing away of one of our colleagues on the executive—Mr. Burt (Kelty)—who for a number of years gave of his services to the association; he also filled, for some time, the president's chair of Kelty Society.

In concluding our report, we would take this opportunity to express our thanks to those societies that have entertained the delegates attending the quarterly meetings. We have also to express our gratitude to the officials of societies for their willing help in making the necessary arrangements for meetings.

We have again to acknowledge the ready help and accommodation for classes so generously extended to us by Pathhead and Sinclairtown Society, as well as the hospitality to those attending meetings held on their premises.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions—					By Committee's Fees	18	11	5	
To Auchtermuchty Society	1	2	1		" Delegation	9	2	8	
" Buckhaven Society	4	2	5		" Railway Fares	14	5	8	
" Burntisland Society	1	7	6		" Postages and Commission	4	15	7	
" Coaltown of Wemyss Society	0	10	0		" Carriage	0	3	6	
" Co-op. Veterans' Association	0	10	0		" Hires	4	16	6	
" Cowdenbeath Society	3	7	10		" Hall	0	10	0	
" Cupar and District Society	0	18	6		" Congress Delegate	5	18	8	
" Dunfermline Society	8	0	0		" Co-op. Veterans' Association	1	0	0	
" Dysart Society	3	1	2		" Convalescent Homes	1	5	0	
" East Wemyss Society	1	10	1		" International Alliance	2	0	0	
" Gallatown Society	0	15	0		" Printing	10	10	8	
" Guardbridge Society	1	5	10		" Public Boards' Election	4	2	0	
" Keltly Society	4	9	3		" Lectures	3	4	5	
" Kettle Society	0	13	6		" Books and Classes	3	5	5	
" King's Kettle Baking Society	1	2	4		" Secretary's Salary	5	0	0	
" Kingseat Society	0	8	0		" Treasurer's	2	0	0	
" Kinross and Vicinity Society	0	11	8		" Cash—Deposit Receipt	12	0	0	
" Lassodie Society	0	9	8		" " Current Account	7	6	5	
" Laundry Association	0	10	0						
" Leslie and District Society	2	8	8						
" Leslie Society	0	11	0						
" Leven Reform Society	3	17	1						
" Lochgelly Society	6	11	9						
" Markinch Society	3	15	0						
" Methil Society	1	15	10						
" Newburgh and District Society	0	9	4						
" Newspaper Society	0	10	6						
" Paisley Manufacturing Society	0	10	0						
" Pathhead & Sinclairtown Society	9	7	0						
" Scottish Co-operator	0	10	0						
" Scottish Section	3	0	0						
" " Rebate on Hire	0	6	0						
" " Defence Fund	4	2	0						
" Scottish Wholesale Society	5	0	0						
" St. Andrew's Society	0	16	8						
" Townhill Industrial Society	1	5	10						
" United Baking Society	3	0	0						
" West Wemyss Society	0	11	8						
" Women's Guild, Buckhaven	0	2	6						
" " Burntisland	0	2	6						
" " Cowdenbeath	0	2	6						
" " Dunfermline	0	2	6						
" " Dysart	0	2	6						
" " Keltly	0	2	6						
" " Leven Reform	0	2	6						
" " Lochgelly	0	2	6						
" " Methil	0	2	6						
" " Pathhead & Sinclairtown	0	2	6						
" " Scottish	0	2	6						
" " Section V.	0	2	6						
" Educational Com., Cowdenbeath	0	10	0						
" " Keltly	0	10	0						
" " Lochgelly	0	10	0						
" " Markinch	0	10	0						
" " Methil	0	10	0						
Advertising—									
" Laundry Association	0	10	0						
" Paisley Manufacturing Society	1	0	0						
" St. Cuthbert's Association	2	0	0						
" United Baking Society	1	17	6						
" Cash commencing the year	17	3	10						
" Interest on Deposit Receipt	0	3	5						

£109 17 11

£109 17 11

Audited—
DAVID PEEBLES.

JOHN PATTERSON, Secretary.

NO. 7.—FORFARSHIRE, PERTHSHIRE, AND ABERDEENSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. J. Mathews (president), Perth.	Mr. Colin M. Fulton, Dundee.
„ Alfred O'Neil (secretary), Brechin.	„ George Wilson, Aberdeen.
„ John Muir (treasurer), Dundee.	„ John Quinn, Arbroath.
„ G. D. Merchant (statistical secretary), Monifieth.	„ John Stenhouse, Crieff.
„ David Small (auditor), Dundee.	„ Alexander Crerar, Carnoustie.
„ James Wilkie (auditor), Dundee.	„ James Couttie, Kirriemuir.

The past year will be memorable in the history of our country and of mankind for many generations to come. The great world war, which broke out in August, embroiling almost every European nation, and extending its operations into every quarter of the globe, has completely dominated every affair of every people and kindred and tongue.

This is not the place to discuss the causes of the great disaster, but we may indicate how the co-operative movement has been affected generally and in this district. The first result of the war was national financial and economic chaos. The retail co-operative societies proved to be guardians of the people's interests when attempts were made by the other traders to extract exorbitant and unwarranted prices for the leading necessities of existence—notably the “staff of life”—and since the outbreak of the war they were a steadying influence and bulwark against the pseudo-patriotism which takes advantage of a nation's difficulties for the purpose of personal gain.

The firm stand taken by the officials and managers of co-operative societies, which we have referred to, has strongly convinced the members of the value and justice of co-operative trading, and caused them to exhibit greater loyalty. Many who hitherto held aloof from co-operation have now acknowledged its claims to be genuine and become members of the local society. These causes, it is pleasing to notice, have enabled nearly every society in this district to record actual progress.

CONFERENCES.

In mentally reviewing the quarterly conferences of the past year, and considering their effect, we again feel that our judgment in the choice of subjects and leading speakers has been sound. The following table shows the arrangements made and fulfilled :—

Date.	Place of Meeting.	Subject.	Author.	Attendance.
1914. April.	Aberdeen.	The Future Relations between the Co-operative Movement and other Democratic Forces.	Mr. George Bisset, President, Aberdeen Northern Co-operative Company Ltd.	74
July.	Blairstown	Co-operative Education in the District, with a Scheme of work for Educational Committees.	Mr. John Muir, Dundee, Treasurer of Conference, Association.	77
Oct.	Monifieth.	The War and After: The Duties and Responsibilities of Co-operative Societies.	Mr. George Bisset.	94
1915. Jan.	Kirriemuir	Men and Still more Men—their Lack in the Co-operative Army.	Mr. Alfred O'Neill, Brechin, Secretary of Conference Association.	82

Mr. Bisset, at the Aberdeen conference, outlined the proposals drawn up by the special committee representing the Co-operative Union, Trades Union Congress, and Parliamentary Labour Party, with the view of combining these forces in certain directions to hasten the improvement of the economic status of the people. Mr. Bisset strongly advocated united action on the lines suggested. The Co-operative Union has now published a statement and series of resolutions, to ascertain the opinion of each conference association, in order to have the question settled definitely at the forthcoming Congress.

The Blairstown conference was utilised chiefly to stimulate societies to greater educational effort. Mr. Muir lucidly explained the difference between education and propaganda, and showed how comparatively little of the former was now necessary by co-operators owing to the provisions of the State, but how exceedingly much of the latter was required owing to the consolidation of the opposing business forces and the apathy of the people generally to their collective interests and advantages. Mr. Muir submitted a comprehensive and simple scheme of work, which will prove of great value to the council and every society which can be induced to interest its members more in co-operation and take more aggressive propaganda action.

By October everyone was obsessed with the war, and it was appropriate, as well as necessary, to discuss the duties and responsibilities of societies during and after the crisis. Mr. Bisset's paper on this occasion was a statesmanlike utterance, treating the war from the people's standpoint and not from that of the militarists, and keeping in mind the brotherhood of man, which is one of the aims of co-operators. He suggested that co-operative business should be carried on in a normal fashion, earning its usual profit, but conserving it as far as possible by setting aside more for reserves and depreciation. At this conference a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to make more ample provision for the wives, widows, and dependants of those engaged in fighting, and this was sent to the Prime Minister, and members of Parliament for Forfarshire, Perthshire, and Aberdeenshire. The council also asked the individual societies to petition their local members of Parliament, in addition, on the matter.

The last conference also struck a note of war. Mr. O'Neil's paper was a call to arms for more devoted service on behalf of the peaceful revolution of co-operation, describing by martial analogy and illustration the aims of the campaign, the nature and strength of the enemies within and without, the character of the soldiers in the respective ranks, the positions already won, the greater number and higher quality of the men and women still required, and how they are to be recruited and trained if victory is to be achieved. This paper so appealed to the delegates present that the council were recommended to arrange for its circulation in pamphlet form.

The chairman at Kirriemuir, in his quarterly review of district work and important co-operative events, took occasion to draw special attention to the various Scottish co-operative federations of a business and philanthropic character, and appealed for stronger and unwavering support to them by the district societies.

EDUCATION AND DEFENCE.

City of Perth, City of Dundee, Aberdeen, and Brechin societies are again to be congratulated on their educational work, which the war has not been allowed to interfere with to any great extent. We cannot omit mention of the City of Perth's monthly *Pioneer*, which is a credit to its editor and a distinct factor in the success of co-operation in the Fair City.

Brechin Society now issues an annual "Handbook," which is very capably compiled, and serves to keep all the business departments and educational and social organisations of the society before the notice of the members, as well as the purpose of our own, among other, federations.

We were instrumental in starting a joint educational committee of the Arbroath societies during the year. Its inauguration took the form of a gala day, which proved a great success, and created considerable attention in the town. This also is a good method of propaganda, quite common in other districts, which more societies in the north might well adopt. A Book-keeping class has also been formed in Arbroath, and one or two lectures arranged, all of which are bound to help co-operation.

The association has agreed to approve of and subscribe to the Co-operative College *Herald* Circle.

We welcome the Co-operative Union's *Quarterly Review*, which commenced in 1914; it brings the work of every district and section of the movement under the notice of its readers, and is valuable in many ways to a body like ours. The publication of "Co-operation for All" has also been an event of the year, and we hope every co-operator in the district possesses a copy of this splendid threepence worth.

We circularised societies prior to the School Board elections, drawing their attention to the advisability of securing the return of co-operators to local School Boards.

PROPAGANDA.

The results of the experimental year of the propaganda agent, under the ægis of the Co-operative Union and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, which we were able to secure, have, as we anticipated, led to Mr. Maclean's continuance in the position. Most of his time has been spent along the shores of the Moray Firth, where he has influenced increasing support to existing societies, and laid foundations for the establishment, as a first step, of retail branches of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society in several towns. Such a branch was opened in Buckie, and, as will be seen from the statistics, it has made a splendid beginning.

AMALGAMATION.

We regret to report that efforts to bring about complete union of forces in Arbroath and Auchterarder proved abortive; but we continue in good hope that seed remains which will yet spring up to successful fruition in those places. In Carnoustie prospects seemed happier, and our services of some avail; but as we write "the light burns dim."

ARBROATH LITIGATION.

The dispute between the Arbroath Friendly Coal Society and the Harbour Trustees, to which we referred three years ago, has at last reached its long drawn out end in the Court of Session, and we congratulate the co-operators on the firm stand they took, at great expense, and on their gaining the important principle at stake.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

Our sister organisation, Section V. of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild, broke fresh ground in the district by successfully starting a branch in Monifieth, and the time seems to approach when this section might be divided into two—one for Fifeshire, and one for Forfarshire, Perthshire, and Aberdeenshire—an arrangement which would undoubtedly be of much more benefit to the branches in this district. All the branches have supplied an immense amount of material for the comfort of the soldiers and sailors of the Empire.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. D. G. Merchant (Monifieth) was elected statistical secretary at the October meeting, and we direct attention to his first report.

Montrose Society's committee was visited by a small deputation, who placed the purposes of the conference association before them, and who were kindly and sympathetically received. We hope the visit will lead ere long to an accession to our membership.

Co-operators in this district are well represented on the local committees of the Prince of Wales and other relief funds consequent on the war, while every society and its employés have contributed substantial sums to the various relief funds.

OBITUARY.

We record with deep sorrow the loss during the year of a trio of true and tried co-operators, well known both in their own communities and in this association's work for distinguished service, viz., Messrs. John Barrowman (Dundee), James Bruce (Breachin), and James H. Clark (Arbroath). Our space is too limited to do justice to the characters of any of these gentlemen, but the minutes of the association bear witness to the high estimation in which we held them. Mr. Barrowman for over thirty years was manager of the Dundee depôt of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and retired two years ago with well deserved honours heaped upon him from many quarters. He was one of our auditors for many years. Mr. Bruce was president of this association from 1896 to 1904, and displayed in the position notable gifts of leadership, courage, discernment, speech, and wide intelligence. One of his last services to co-operation was the chairmanship of the committee which successfully piloted the Brechin societies to the haven of amalgamation, one only amongst many valuable works which he effectively assisted in the course of a life which we feel was all too short. Mr. Clark was long president of Arbroath Friendly Coal Society, and a tower of strength to co-operation in Arbroath. Those men all lived in the faith of great ideals, and the record of their lives must ever be an inspiration to those who follow their lead.

Another well-known Dundonian, Mr. William Phillips, identified with co-operation for over thirty years as manager of the Eastern Society, also passed away during the year under review.

As we go to press we are saddened to learn of the death, in the prime of life, of Mr. C. W. Macpherson (Edinburgh), a director of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society during the last three years.

At the same time we are constrained to allude to the passing of that fine old gentleman who presided for twenty years over the destinies of the great English Co-operative Wholesale Society, and who died in harness in his eighty-fourth year, viz., Mr. John Shillito, F.R.G.S. Those of us who attended the Aberdeen Congress were struck by his unfailing presence at every meeting; it was evident that he was there with a strong sense of duty which put many a young man to shame.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1913	.....	13	10	0	By Railway Fares	.....	3	11	0
„ Subscriptions—					„ Lost Time	.....	2	6	
Aberdeen Northern Company..	8	0	0	„ Allowances	.....	1	16	3	
Breachin United	3	0	0	„ Printing and Advertising	.....	1	5	0	
Perth, City of ..	3	3	0	„ Postages, &c.	.....	0	12	0	
Co-operative Union	1	10	0	„ Subscriptions—					
				Blaigowrie Purvey	.....	1	0	0	
				Arbroath Educational Com-					
				mittee	.....	1	10	0	
				Co-operative Col ege Circle ..	.....	0	10	5	
				„ Cash in Bank	.....	16	11	9	
		£29	3	0			£24	3	0

DEFENCE FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from 1913	11	4 0	By Postage, &c.	0	1 6
„ Subscriptions—			„ Cash in Bank	22	6 6
Aberdeen Northern	10	10 0			
Breichin United	0	14 0			
	£22	8 0	Audited—		
			DAVID SMALL.		
			JAMES WILKIE.	£22	8 0

ALFRED O'NEIL, Secretary.

No. 8.—GLASGOW AND SUBURBS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. James Lucas, M.A. (president), Shettleston.	Mr. William Grindlay, Vale of Leven.
„ Walter Weir (secretary), Cowlairst, Glasgow.	„ William Mason, Dalnuir.
„ William Pettigrew (treas.), St. Rollox, Glasgow.	Mrs. McFie, Kinning Park, Glasgow.
„ A. R. Chaddock (statistical secretary), Kinning Park, Glasgow.	Mr. Malcolm Ross, Glasgow Eastern.
„ James Bowie, St. George, Glasgow.	„ Alex. Strang, Cowlairst, Glasgow.
	„ John M. Biggar, Milngavie.
	„ John Richardson, Dumbarton.
	„ James Russell, St. Rollox, Glasgow.

It is again our duty and privilege to render an account of our stewardship, and we have pleasure in doing so. The year 1914 has been remarkable for the outbreak of hostilities involving several of the leading nations which had adopted the co-operative brotherhood, as evinced at the International Congress at Glasgow in 1913. One would have thought that the response made to the "Peace Resolution," which was proposed by Herr von Elm, would have been sufficient to combat the spirit of war; but, unfortunately, the creed of militarism has outrun that of co-operation, and the titanic struggle now being waged is the result.

In the early days of the struggle we had a severe lesson from the traders, who, taking advantage of the panic, raised the price of goods to famine prices. On the other hand, the co-operative societies stood by the people whose interests were menaced by the profit mongers. Our daily bread was made secure by the action of the United Co-operative Baking Society, keeping same at the old price, and societies expressed their gratitude at the time; and there is no doubt that our movement exercised a steadying influence, which was for the good of the whole community.

It was generally expected that a serious decrease in trade would have to be recorded, but the reverse has been the case, although a certain percentage of the increase must be credited to increased prices for commodities.

We have had examples of the contending parties in the State ceasing hostilities in the furtherance of a common cause. We are still looking forward to a similar movement among the community which, when accomplished, will weld together the links of the chain which will bind the consumers together, and so bring about the time when capitalists and traders will find their occupations gone, and the common people will have realised the ideals set forth by our pioneers and early leaders.

OVERLAPPING.

This evil, we regret, is as rampant as ever among our societies, particularly in Glasgow and neighbourhood. We are sure that committees have not taken the trouble to ascertain the wastage that occurs in the delivery of goods through this cause. We are also sure that members living outwith the boundary of the society with which they trade have not realised the loss the society sustains through van deliveries and the distance between them and the stores. We feel that much trade is lost to the movement, and if committees would give this question their serious consideration the waste could be avoided.

AMALGAMATION.

There has been small progress in this respect during the year, but it is satisfactory to report that one amalgamation has been consummated. We refer to the joining up of Hallside and Gibbertfield societies, which, we feel sure, will feel the benefit ere many months elapse. We think the scheme of amalgamation could be extended further in this district by the linking up of the enlarged Gilbertfield Society with Newton Society and Cambuslang Industrial Society, thus forming a large society with district representation, which might be called Cambuslang and District Co-operative Society. There is another part of our area where amalgamation could be carried out with advantage to all. We refer to that district comprising Clydebank, Dalnuir, Duntocher, and Blairdardie. We hope that the committees concerned will give this question their attention, and that we will be able to report a lesser number of our societies in 1915.

EDUCATIONAL WORK BY SOCIETIES.

The work of our societies in this direction is still going on pretty much as usual. There are still some societies, however, which have no educational committees, that work being entrusted to a sub-committee of the board of management. We believe that is a mistake, and should be remedied. The women's guilds still flourish, but several have decreases in numbers to report. One society—viz., Clydebank—is successfully conducting a co-operative men's guild, an example which could be emulated by other societies with advantage. Another feature which we must refer to is, the interest taken by Kinning Park Society in the technical education of their employés. They carried through a course of lectures and demonstrations for their fleshing salesmen, at which they had an average attendance of thirty. The interest

was maintained from beginning to end, and we have no doubt that this venture will repay any society which takes an interest in the welfare of its staff.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

The February meeting was held in Parkhead Public Hall, under the auspices of Glasgow Eastern Society. There was an attendance of 306. The secretary was reappointed, and Mr. William Pettigrew (St. Rollox) was appointed treasurer, in succession to Mr. Allan M'Pherson. The retiring members of council were reappointed. The first reports of the newly constituted educational and defence sub-committees were submitted, but so much time had been spent discussing several appeals for financial help that only the defence report was considered briefly, and the meeting adjourned.

The adjourned meeting was held in the Co operative Hall, Springburn, under the joint auspices of Cowlairs and United Baking societies. Discussion was continued on both reports, every item of which was criticised, and it was felt that this special work of the association was on sound lines in being carried on by sub-committees.

The May meeting was under the joint auspices of the Milngavie Society and the council. It was held in Milngavie Public Hall, and there was an attendance of 281. The annual report and statistical statement were discussed, and, after a few questions, adopted. Mr. Matthew Hunter (Clydebank) read a paper on "The Fusion of Forces," but owing to the insufficiency of time the discussion was adjourned till the August meeting.

The August meeting was held in Kirkintilloch Public Hall, on the invitation of Kirkintilloch Society. There were 246 present. The president, auditor, and statistical secretary were re-elected, and also the five retiring members of council. On the recommendation of council, the association agreed to affiliate with the Glasgow Labour Party for co-operative defensive purposes. A lively discussion took place on Mr. Hunter's paper, the prevailing opinion being that a linking up of all progressive forces was necessary and desirable.

The November meeting was held, on the invitation of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, in Clarence Street Hall, where there was an attendance of 319 delegates and visitors. The chairman of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society made a very comprehensive statement of the position of his society regarding production, and referred to the large contracts they were fulfilling on behalf of both British and French War Offices. £10 was granted to the Glasgow Labour Party as our share of the committee expenses in furtherance of the candidature of co-operators seeking election to public bodies. Mr. A. S. Huggan read his paper on "Co-operative Production." An animated and interesting discussion took place, and was calculated to turn the eyes of the societies towards the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's productions.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES.

At the urgent request of the Co-operative Union, a meeting of delegates from societies was held at St. Mungo Halls on 5th September. The war crisis had necessitated the consideration of the following questions, viz. :— Prices and supply of goods ; the advisability of reducing prices and paying smaller dividends ; withdrawals of capital ; assistance to members in distress ; and appointment of co-operative representatives on local distress committees. The discussion was introduced by Mr. James Wilkie. An interesting discussion took place, and from the various opinions expressed it was felt that the meeting would be for the good of our movement in the critical times through which we were passing.

A special defence conference was held on 10th October at Colinslee, on the invitation of the Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society. There was a very large attendance of delegates and visitors. After a hearty welcome from Mr. Souden (Paisley Co-operative Manufacturing Society), Councillor Taylor (Glasgow) delivered a stirring address on "Co-operative Defence and Local Government." A rousing discussion took place, taken part in by many of the delegates, after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

That the delegates here pledge themselves to go back to their societies and do their utmost to get them to work for representation on all public bodies.

This meeting will, doubtless, have done much to stimulate an interest in our defence work.

REPORT OF DEFENCE COMMITTEE, 1914.

With the experience of the past year, and the interest aroused in various societies, we looked forward confidently to further achievements in securing the return of co-operative candidates to the various local boards and councils, and had made our arrangements accordingly when this lamentable war suddenly broke out, filling men's minds with its frightfulness, and, judging from the unexampled patriotic unity of all political parties in the House of Commons, it was generally thought there would be no contests in local boards and councils.

We issued an appeal to all our societies, pointing out their responsibility in demanding and securing that working men and women should have a fuller and larger share in the administration of our public boards, desiring to know if, as a society, they were putting forward any candidates or taking part in the forthcoming elections. As was generally anticipated, very few replies were received. In Glasgow, owing to the intimation a few days before nomination day of a co-operative councillor retiring being opposed, we, along with the Glasgow Labour Party, put four candidates into the field, but were only successful in securing the return of one. At by-elections for Glasgow Town Council in July and February of this year, we assisted in securing the return of co-operative and labour candidates, and also have

been instrumental, with others, in having a co-operative candidate co-opted to the Glasgow Parish Council.

During the past year we have been associated by agreement with the Glasgow Labour Party; this year we have become affiliated to that body, and have been able jointly to do much in the interest of the working class. Although this party is composed of delegates from trades councils, co-operative movement, Independent Labour Party, Fabian Society, Women's Labour League, and local Labour Representation Committee, no one section predominates, which demonstrates the great value and importance of working-class organisations acting together to secure representation on public boards.

Shortly after the war broke out we were invited, with other organisations, by the Glasgow Trades Council to send representatives to form a special distress committee. This committee receives reports from the various distress committees in the city distributing the Prince of Wales Fund, also from the Glasgow Advisory Committee, and has been the means of more generous and humane dealings to the recipients of relief, both men and women; also, where food tickets are given, the claims of the co-operative movement have been put forward. We sent four representatives. Much work lies before this committee to see that not only the Prince of Wales Fund, but the Government funds, are administered with the least expense officially and with due regard to the deserving.

The increase in price of food supplies and the exploitation of the wage earning class by unscrupulous capitalists and trusts caused us to issue a letter and form of protest to each society, requesting them to fill in name of society, membership, &c., and forward to the President of the Board of Trade. We believe societies generally acted on our suggestion, some of them bringing it before their members' meeting.

We sent representatives to a conference on the housing question, and members generally must, with increased rents, be alive to the necessity of something being done to ensure houses being secured at a fair and equitable rent.

FINANCE.

We beg to thank those societies that have made special grants to the educational and defence fund this year, and trust societies will remember to allocate to us the subscriptions annually given to the Scottish Co-operative Defence Association.

CONCLUSION.

We believe this time of stress and strain in our national history has shown the value and importance of our movement to the country and people, and that we are part of a greater movement, holding within its grasp great potentialities of better and brighter times could we but be united.

APPRECIATION.

To those societies which took their turn of entertaining the delegates to quarterly and special meetings we tender our heartiest thanks.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure		£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward		97	15	4	By Postage		5	4	5
„ Subscriptions from—					„ Lost Time		7	0	6
Aberfoyle		0	3	0	„ Committee Allowance		42	6	6
Anniesland		0	17	7	„ Travelling Expenses		83	15	5
Avonbank		3	4	10	„ Printing and Stationery		60	1	0
Blairdardie		0	2	4	„ Salaries :—				
Cadder		0	13	10	President		2	0	0
Cambuslang		2	17	6	Secretary		10	0	0
Clydebank		10	11	0	Treasurer		2	0	0
Dalmuir (three half years)		2	11	2	Statistical Secretary (and Ex-				
Dumbarton Equitable		5	3	10	penses)		3	17	0
Duntocher and Hardgate		0	9	2	Auditor (and Expenses)		1	3	2
East Kilbride		0	6	2	„ Rent—Special Conference, Coun-				
Gilbertfield		1	3	4	cil, and Sub-Committee		5	19	0
Hallside		0	6	5	„ Speakers at Conferences		2	7	0
Glasgow—Cowlairst		14	2	4	„ Subscription to—				
„ Eastern		12	18	2	Glasgow Labour Party		10	0	0
„ Kinning Park		28	13	6	Co-op. Convalescent Homes				
„ London Road		3	18	2	Ltd., Maintenance Fund		1	5	0
„ St. George		23	3	0	Scottish Co-operative Veterans'				
„ St. Rollox		6	6	10	Association		1	10	0
Kirkintilloch Equitable		2	12	0	International Co-operative Ali-				
Lennoxtown		0	13	6	ance		1	0	0
Milngavie		0	19	6	Scottish Co-op. Ambulance				
Newton (half 1913)		0	4	4	Centre		1	1	0
Shettleston		9	8	8	Railway Nationalisation Asso-				
Stonefield Independent		0	6	5	ciation		1	1	0
Tollcross		2	1	6	West Barns Society Fund ..		1	1	0
Uddingston		2	17	4	Scottish Co-operative Musical				
Vale of Leven		7	1	2	Association		2	2	0
U.C.B.S. Employes' Bonus					U.C.B.S. Band		1	0	0
Investment Society		1	3	0	„ Dublin Congress Delegates' Ex-				
S.C.W.S. Employes' Share-					penses		5	14	0
holding Association		0	10	0	„ Insurance of Council (Accident)		1	15	0
Scottish Women's Guild (Central					„ Council's Portion of Expenses—				
Council)		0	2	6	May Quarterly Meeting		6	0	10
„ „ „ (Section 1)		0	2	6	„ Scottish Co-operator		4	19	4
„ „ „ (Section 2)		0	2	6	„ Co-operative News		3	5	6
Scottish Wholesale		5	0	0	„ Manage'mt Class (1913) Teacher's				
Scottish Section, Co-op. Union		3	0	0	Salary		5	0	0
Laundry Association		0	10	0	„ Management Class Fees—Co-				
Scottish Co-operator		0	10	0	operative Union		5	15	0
Veterans' Association		0	10	0	„ Balance—School Board Election				
Drapery and Furnishing		2	0	0	Expenses		3	6	0
Paisley Manufacturing		0	10	0	„ Propaganda Meetings—				
United Baking		3	0	0	East Kilbride		1	16	8
Newspaper Society, Man-					Lennoxtown		2	12	1
chester		0	10	6	Milngavie		2	1	6
„ Advertisements in Agenda Billets :—					Blairdardie		7	7	6
Insurance Society		1	10	0	Children's Rally		9	16	0
United Baking		2	0	0	„ Share in Scottish Co-operator ..		1	0	0
Paisley Manufacturing		1	0	0	„ Share in Scottish Co-operative				
Scottish Co-op. Newspaper		1	0	0	Veterans' Association		1	0	0
„ Central Education Fund, Scottish					„ Share in Co-op. Convalescent				
Section		10	0	0	Homes Ltd.		1	0	0
„ Central Defence Fund, Scottish					„ Cash in Bank and in Treasurer's				
Section		15	0	0	hands		95	12	5
„ Refunded Candidate's Expenses ..		14	0	0					
„ Management Class Fees 1913-14									
and 1914-15		5	5	0					
„ Donation to Council Defence and									
Education Fund—									
Avonbank		1	0	0					
Cambuslang		2	0	0					
East Kilbride		0	5	0					
Glasgow Eastern (per Educa-									
tional Committee)		1	10	0					
Kinning Park		15	0	0					
Carried forward		328	12	11	Carried forward		353	14	10

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	328	12	11
To Donations to Council Defence and Education Fund—			
St. George	15	0	0
St. Rollox	3	3	0
Kirkintilloch	5	0	0
Uddingston	1	0	0
„ Interest from U.C.B.S. Bank	0	18	11
	£353	14	10

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	353	14	10
Audited—			
ARCHIBALD HENDERSON.			
	£353	14	10

WALTER WEIR, Secretary.

No. 9.—RENFREWSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Dewar (president), Cathcart.	Mr. John Armour, Paisley Provident.
„ Donald Mackerron (secretary), Greenock.	„ James Macintyre, Kilbarchan.
„ John Muir (treasurer), Elderslie.	„ Alex. Lawson, Newton Mearns.
„ John Paton (statistical secretary), Paisley.	„ A. M. Fraser (auditor), Paisley.

Your committee have again the honour of submitting for your approval the report and statistical statement for another year. We can undoubtedly look back on 1914 as a memorable year. We began the year with the trade of the country on the decline; we were reconciled to the fact that the tide of good trade had at last turned, and we were likely to have to face a lean commercial year or two before a further reaction took place. Suddenly our whole outlook on life was altered; the war clouds which had so often threatened Europe of late had at last burst, and we are confronted with all the horrors and devastation of the greatest war of all times. Such a serious crisis in the life of our nation could not take place without affecting, in some degree, our great movement, and on the outbreak of war it is to be regretted that some of our members throughout the country for a time lost their self control and their confidence in the principles of which they formed a part. Since the first two weeks of the crisis, things have assumed their normal aspect so far as the conducting of the business is concerned. While it is true that most of our societies show an increase in the amount of cash drawn, we are convinced that the volume of trade done is less than in the previous year. This is partly due, no doubt, to the lessened purchasing power of money, and to some extent to the number of men who have joined the colours from each household, this also reducing the purchasing power of the member. While this is true, we are pleased to be able to report that members have adapted themselves to the altered condition of things with great success, and this proves that the great majority of our members believe that it is to their best interests to abide by co-operative principles in all the varying circumstances of our national life.

It is quite evident that the increase in the collective action of the conference is appreciated by the societies. In addition to the four statutory meetings, two special conferences have been held, and during the year a

committee was formed to consider and recommend a wages scale which would be suitable for our area.

The first meeting to be held during the year was a special conference to consider the educational and defence scheme of the Scottish Section. This meeting was held at Barrhead, under the auspices of the Barrhead Society. After a very full and varied discussion, the whole of the two schemes, educational and defence, was approved of, with the exception of clause (d) of the defence scheme, which reads as follows :—"That societies who adopt candidates should be responsible, where necessary, for a large part of the election expenses." As this was considered to be outwith the powers of societies under their present rules, it was unanimously agreed to remit this clause back to the Scottish Section for reconsideration and alteration.

The first quarterly conference or annual meeting was held in Glasgow under the auspices of the United Co-operative Baking Society. Mr. John Dewar (president), in opening the proceedings, appealed for support to the co-operative press, the official organ of the movement. He also referred to the fact that the United Co-operative Baking Society had agreed to take over the Holiday Association, and he thought it would now greatly extend its usefulness and increase in dimensions. Mr. Gerrard (chairman, United Co-operative Baking Society), in his welcome to the delegates, said that the conference meetings did more than anything else that he knew of to educate the members. Mr. Fraser (auditor) gave a satisfactory report, which was passed without question. Thereafter Mr. Dewar declared Mr. Paton and Mr. Muir elected for the next twelve months to the offices of statistical secretary and treasurer respectively. The Kilbarchan Society was successful after a course of voting for the elective seat on committee. Mr. Thomson (manager, dairy department, Greenock Central Society) then read a paper on "Our Milk Supply : Its Dangers, and How to Avoid Them," which was a highly instructive and practical paper on all the various diseases and remedies, and which no class could counteract better than co-operators, owing to the collective opportunity they possessed.

The second meeting was held in the Public Hall, Pollokshaws, under the auspices of the Pollokshaws Society, and was intended to form the last event in their jubilee celebrations. Mr. Dewar, in accepting nomination for another term as president, intimated that it was only at the urgent request of his colleagues that he consented to accept nomination for another year, and that he desired it to be understood that under no circumstances would he again accept the position. Mr. Barr (Johnstone) moved, on behalf of his society—

That all the societies in this conference be formed into a district for the purpose of arranging uniform hours of business and standard rates of wages.

An animated discussion took place as to method of carrying out the instruction, which was agreed to, the chairman stating that the committee would carry out same in the best method possible. Mr. M'Millan (manager of

Pollokshaws Society) read a paper on "Depreciations, Reserves, and Credit Trading," discussion of which, owing to the lateness of the hour, was deferred to next quarterly meeting.

The third quarterly meeting was held in the Public Hall, Thornliebank, under the auspices of the Thornliebank Society. Mr. Dewar occupied the chair, and referred in moving terms to the awful war which had broken out amongst the civilised nations of the world, and hoped the time would come when the democracy of the world would see to it that no such blot should ever stain the civilisation of the world again. Mr. Dewar was elected president for twelve months, and Mr. Donald MacKerron secretary for a like period. For the elective seat on the committee, Paisley Provident, after voting, was declared elected. The minute of wages board committee was read and approved of. The following were the scales agreed upon and recommended:—

Clause 1.—APPRENTICES.

Year of Service	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Wages	8/-	10/-	12/-	15/-	20/-

Clause 2.—GIRLS AND FEMALE SHOP ASSISTANTS.

Year of Service .	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Wages	5/-	7/-	9/-	11/-	13/-	15/-	17/-

Clause 3.—MALE SHOP ASSISTANTS.

After five years' experience, 26/- per week, to be advanced 1/- per week per annum for five years.

Clause 4.—BRANCH MANAGERS.

Minimum, 34/- per week, but where net sales average £100 per week to be 36/-.

Clause 5.—MANAGERESSES.

Minimum, 20/- per week.

The secretary then read Mr. McMillan's paper on "Depreciation, Reserves, and Credit Trading." The paper was full of truths, and if taken home to each society by the delegates and worked upon, there was no fear of any disaster befalling them. It was a thoughtful contribution, and deserved the warmest thanks of the conference.

The November meeting was, as usual, held in Paisley, under the auspices of the four Paisley societies, and is always the best attended meeting of the series. The subject for consideration was a paper by Mr. Maclean, M.A., on "War: Its Cause and Cure." It was a well-constructed argument, and gave very clearly the writer's theory with regard to war, and finished by affirming that co-operation would ultimately be one of the pillars on which the State would rest, and which would make war impossible. A good discussion followed, and was enjoyed by the large audience. Mr. Maclean was heartily thanked for his paper. As some misunderstanding had arisen in connection with the wages committee, the secretary explained that the committee was constituted by one delegate from each society, along with the executive; that it had agreed that the committee could only recommend acceptance of their findings; and that each delegate reserved to his society

its individual freedom. This committee had drawn up a scale, and sent same out to the societies for their acceptance. So far, fourteen societies had agreed to pay scale, or pay equal, and in some cases better; one society does not come under scale at all; two societies cannot see their way to accept scale; and five have not yet replied.

A special conference was held in Paisley on 31st October, to consider Mr. Bisset's paper on "The Duties of Committee-men of Co-operative Societies." A large number of delegates attended—in fact, the largest ever met under the auspices of the conference—240 being present, no visitors being invited. A splendid discussion took place, and everyone seemed to think it was one of the best meetings we have had.

EDUCATIONAL.

Notwithstanding the crisis which the nation is passing through, most of the societies in our area have carried on their usual educational meetings and business, and the success which has attended their efforts shows that "business as usual" has been appreciated. That some societies have not endeavoured to carry out their usual programme is due to a variety of causes, over some of which they had no control.

During the month of April a special meeting of educational delegates was held in Paisley to consider the work for the ensuing winter. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to have interchange of choirs at societies' educational or propaganda meetings; to arrange, if possible, a series of lectures in centres that would be most suitable; to have as many classes in the various centres as could be arranged; also to arrange an essay competition for the young, for which the conference would provide prizes. Under our auspices the following lecturers were engaged:—Mr. Lucas (Scottish Section), Mr. Haddow (Glasgow School Board), Mr. A. Young (Edinburgh, president of Co-operative Convalescent Homes), and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's kinema lecture, by Mr. Orr. The following choirs were also interchanged:—Johnstone Society Junior Choir to Paisley Equitable Society; Barrhead Society Junior Choir to Paisley Provident Society; Paisley Provident Society Junior Choir to Barrhead Society; and Greenock Central Adult Choir to Port Glasgow societies' joint meeting. We commend a further extension of this in the coming season, and hope our societies will heartily co-operate in this direction.

The women's guilds have again proved how useful they can be. It is almost needless to say that their activities and usefulness have been specially noticeable this year in connection with the splendid work they have all performed in making and providing articles of use and comfort for our soldiers and sailors. We welcome and applaud the good they have been enabled to do, and hope their influence will continue for the uplifting and fostering of our great movement.

Again would the committee extend to the societies which have so generously entertained the meetings their warmest thanks, and we take this opportunity

of expressing our appreciation of the attention and courteous treatment bestowed upon us at all times.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	189	8 7½	By Committee, Travelling	16	1 4
" Linwood	0	12 0	" " Meetings	8	19 0
" Hurlet and Nitshill	0	10 3	" " Delegations	7	15 0
" Paisley Equitable	3	11 2	" " Time Allowance	2	12 1
" Kilbarchan	1	2 3	" Secretary's Fee	6	0 0
" Thorniebank	1	3 1	" Secretary's Postage and Carriage	3	0 3
" Greenock Central	12	16 7	" Statistical Secretary	3	0 0
" Barrhead	6	2 1	" " Postage	0	1 8
" Pollokshaws	2	18 9	" Minute Book	0	3 0
" Paisley Provident	17	15 9	" Reporting Meetings	1	17 6
" Johnstone	3	13 6	" Reading Papers	1	0 0
" Port Glasgow	3	6 11	" Congress Delegate	5	14 0
" Port Glasgow Provident	3	8 8	" Printing	13	4 6
" Howwood	0	6 1	" Lecturer's Fees and Expenses	3	11 8
" Lochwinnoch	0	10 5½	" Purvey	10	8 7
" Cathcart	1	13 9	" Hall Rent	0	10 0
" Paisley Manufacturing	10	7 5	" Subscription, Co-op. Union	0	10 0
" " (Advt.)	1	0 0	" Donations—		
" Scottish Wholesale Soc.	5	0 0	Scottish Council for Women's		
" Busby	0	10 5	Trades	2	2 0
" Bridge of Weir	0	10 5	Paisley Workshop for the Blind	1	0 0
" Underwood Coal	0	17 0	Scottish Musical Association	1	0 0
" Greenock East End	2	1 5	Veterans' Association	1	0 0
" Newton Mearns	0	6 9½	Co op. Homes Limited	1	5 0
" Scottish Laundry	0	10 0	West Barns Co-op. Society		
" Co-op. Union (Scottish Section) ..	3	0 0	(Relief Fund)	2	0 0
" Scottish Co-op. Women's Guild			" Treasurer's Postage and Bank		
(Central Committee)	0	2 6	Commission	0	9 7
" Renfrew Equitable	3	1 10	" Holiday Camp (by Contra)	30	0 0
" Co-operative Newspaper	0	10 6	" Shares in Laundry Association	5	0 0
" Scottish Co-operator	0	10 0	" Loan in Laundry Association	69	16 3
" " (Advt.)	0	10 0	" Share in Co-operator Newspaper	1	0 0
" Drapery and Furnishing	0	10 0	" Loan in Co-operator Newspaper	0	11 2
" United Co-op. Baking Soc. Bonus			" Share in Homes Association	1	0 0
Invest. Society	0	10 0	" Share in Veterans' Association	1	0 0
" United Co-op. Baking Soc.	3	0 0	" Loan in Johnstone Society	119	13 7½
" " " (Advt.)	1	0 0			
" Veterans' Assoc.	0	10 0			
" Holiday Camp Shares Refunded ..	30	0 0			
" Interest Laundry Association	3	0 10			
" " Scottish Co-operator	0	0 6			
" " Johnstone	5	1 8			
	£321	6 2½		£321	6 2½

Audited—

ALEXANDER M. FRASER.

DONALD MACKERRON, Secretary.

NO. 10.—STIRLING, WEST OF FIFE, AND CLACKMANNAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Dunley (president), Alloa.	Mr. A. C. Guthrie, Dunblane.
" G. Wilson (treas.), Bannockburn.	" J. Sneddon, Stirling.
" W. M'Isaac (secretary), Tillicoultry.	" W. C. Donald, Clackmannan.
" T. Jinks (auditor), Newtonshaw.	" W. Penman, Dunfermline.

In again presenting to you the annual report of our conference association for another year we feel certain the various items will receive you careful consideration.

Considering the very unsettled state of affairs, the co-operative movement has every reason to feel proud of the progress and publicity that it has experienced. In our own district the results commercially are most gratifying, especially so when we consider the number of men from our societies who are presently serving their country, which assuredly must result in a less purchasing power by those affected. When we consider the result of such a sudden change in the domestic affairs of our locality which has been created, we have the utmost satisfaction in the position we occupy at the end of 1914.

While we may take ample credit for our commercial position, it is very perceptible that a large falling away has taken place in connection with educational work. Some societies have abandoned, while other societies have greatly curtailed, their educational and propaganda work. No doubt the war—the altered and uncertain condition of things—has, to a large extent, been responsible for this. It is, however, hoped that, when we find ourselves back to our normal conditions, societies will pursue their educational work as formerly, considering that we all admit an educated membership is the best asset any society can have.

As in previous years, four conferences have been held, at which there were most representative gatherings of visitors and delegates from the societies affiliated. For all our meetings some practical or interesting subject in connection with the movement has been submitted.

The first meeting of the year was held, under the auspices of Dunfermline Society, on 21st February, when Mr. Andrew Young (Edinburgh) read a paper entitled “The Need of a Co-operative College.” The subject, as implied by the title, referred particularly to co-operative education, and the necessity of having some place to finish what was presently being carried on in the way of co-operative education. The question was handled in a masterly fashion, which was both instructive and interesting. The discussion on the subject was very much of a complimentary nature, and was taken part in by a good many delegates present. The annual report and statistical statement were also considered at this meeting, although little comment was made on same. The election of various office-bearers was also confirmed at this meeting.

Our second meeting was held in the town of Dunblane, under the auspices of the society there, on 16th May. The subject for discussion at this meeting was a paper read by Mr. James Bayne (Alloa) on “Dividend.” The reader demonstrated very clearly the advantages that accrue both to societies and members by having a fair dividend. He also considered that in many districts it would be beneficial to have uniform dividends. After the reading of the paper, a very animated discussion on the subject took place, especially on the methods by which a dividend was created. It was agreed at this meeting to retain the balance of £5 from the Scottish National Conference, held in Alloa, for propaganda work in the district.

The third quarterly conference was held in St. Mungo Halls, Glasgow, on the invitation of the United Co-operative Baking Society, on Saturday,

22nd August. The attendance at this meeting was scarcely up to the usual. After lunch had been partaken of, the delegates assembled to hear Mr. George Bisset (Aberdeen) read a paper on "Duties of Committee-men of Co-operative Societies." The paper detailed various essential duties of committee-men in dealing with particular aspects of a co-operative society, and other important functions that lay upon those who took the management of our societies in hand. The paper being read, it was open for discussion. The secretary and two members of committee were elected for twelve months at this conference. In general business it was agreed to grant 10s. to the funds of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades. The Scottish Co-operative Laundry Association was admitted unanimously as a member of the conference.

The last conference for the year was held on the 21st November in the Co-operative Hall, Menstrie, at which there was a large turnout of delegates. The subject brought before this meeting was "The Present Policy of the Co-operative Movement," given as an address by Mr. James Lucas, M.A. (Shettleston). Many interesting points in connection with present-day necessities throughout the movement were ably delivered by the speaker, the principal factors being the need of co-operative education, the advantage of agricultural co-operation, loyalty of members to societies and societies to the Wholesales, &c. The idea of having an address instead of reading a paper on this occasion, at least, fully justified the innovation, as the subject was capably handled and delivered. The meeting proved interesting and instructive, and reflected credit on Mr. Lucas. The discussion on the subject was, however, of a complimentary nature, most of those taking part being of the same opinion as the speaker.

During the year ten meetings of the conference executive have been held, at which the various items of business coming before the meetings were carefully considered. Special meetings were also held, with representatives from the various societies, in connection with (a) wages of co-operative employés, and (b) consideration of educational and defence work.

Our women's guilds are still proving a valuable agency in propaganda work for our societies, and the hearty and efficient manner in which they have taken up the cause of providing comforts for our soldiers, &c., during the early winter months, deserves the generous and spontaneous recognition of our members. Our guildswomen are now taking a greater interest in the welfare of our societies, and realising more fully that they are units of a great movement. Our branches still number nine, but we feel certain, with the creation of a new section, and an energetic committee, that this number will soon be added to.

To the societies under whose auspices our quarterly meetings and committee meetings have been held we are greatly indebted, as the kindness and hospitality extended was greatly appreciated, and to those societies our grateful thanks are due.

During the year reference was made to many personalities who in their day and generation had taken a very active part in the movement. In our

own conference we have to record the demise of Mr. John Kirk (Dunfermline), who for a quarter of a century was a member of the conference executive, and in his early days rendered conspicuous service to the movement in this district.

Although the year just begun is still under the horrors of war, the industrial outlook (whatever it may change to) is, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. We hope that societies in our conference area may be able to retain the trade they have so honourably won; and that, even amidst present-day uncertainties, we may be able by the end of another year to report commercial and educative progress.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from last Report.....	62	9	2½		By Secretary.....	8	0	0	
„ Wholesale Society	5	0	0		„ Treasurer	3	0	0	
„ Co-operative Union	3	0	0		„ Committee's Allowances and Ex-				
„ Co-operative Newspaper Society..	0	10	6		penses	13	15	4	
„ Scottish Co-operator.....	0	10	0		„ Delegates and Deputations	8	17	9	
„ United Baking Society	3	0	0		„ Delegate to Dublin Congress	6	13	10	
„ Paisley Manufacturing Society ..	0	10	0		„ Readers of Papers	2	7	0	
„ Laundry Association	0	10	0		„ Printing Annual Reports	3	10	0	
„ 13 Students' Fees (Bookkeeping)	1	12	6		„ Printing and Advertising	2	17	0	
„ Balance from National Confer-					„ West Barns Relief Fund	1	0	0	
ence.....	5	0	7		„ Scottish Council for Women's				
„ Grant from Scottish Section	6	0	0		Trades.....	0	10	0	
„ Alloa Society.....	14	13	6		„ International Co-op. Alliance ..	0	12	0	
„ Alva Bazaar Society	3	12	6		„ Hall Rent	0	12	6	
„ Bannockburn Society.....	5	9	0		„ Teacher—Bookkeeping Class....	8	0	0	
„ Tillicoultry Society	4	3	6		„ Special Conference, Alloa	1	6	3	
„ Stirling Society	13	15	0		„ Purveying Teas at Conferences..	8	0	0	
„ Coalsnaughton Society	0	16	0		„ Propaganda Meeting, Deanston..	2	19	6	
„ Menstrie Society	0	10	6		„ Secretary's Postages	2	1	10	
„ Dunblane Society.....	1	9	7		„ Treasurer's Postages and Bank				
„ Newtonshaw Society	2	3	6		Commission	1	1	3	
„ Clackmannan Society.....	1	1	9		„ Cash in Bannockburn Society ..	67	17	3	
„ Dunfermline Society	8	0	0		„ Cash in Treasurer's hands	12	7	7½	
„ Dunfermline Women's Guild									
(two years).....	0	5	0						
„ Kincardine Women's Guild	0	5	0						
„ Tillicoultry Women's Guild	0	5	0						
„ Alloa Women's Guild.....	0	5	0						
„ Alva Women's Guild ..	0	5	0						
„ Scottish Co-op. Women's Guild	0	2	6						
„ Stirling Women's Guild.....	0	5	0						
„ Newtownshaw Women's Guild	0	5	0						
„ Tullibody Women's Guild	0	5	0						
„ Clackmannan Women's Guild....	0	5	0						
„ Advertising—									
United Baking Society.....	1	0	0						
„ Scottish Co-operator	0	10	0						
„ Paisley Manufacturing..	0	11	0						
„ Laundry Association	0	11	0						
„ Interest from Bannockburn									
Society	1	12	0						
				£150	9	1½			
							£150	9	1½

Audited—
THOMAS JINKS.

WILLIAM M'ISAAC, Secretary.

(6) SOUTHERN SECTION.

The Board held fourteen meetings during the year, of which twelve were ordinary, and two special. The sectional executive met nine times.

The attendances of the members of the Board were as follows:—

	Possible.	Actual.	Absent.	Sick.
Mr. W. T. Charter	14	.. 14	.. —	.. —
Mr. M. H. Clear	14	.. 13	.. 1	.. —
Mr. S. Foulger	14	.. 14	.. —	.. —
Mrs. M. A. Gasson	14	.. 12	.. 1	.. 1
Mr. A. W. Golightly	14	.. 12	.. 1	.. 1
Mr. A. Hainsworth.....	14	.. 12	.. 1	.. 1
Mr. R. Rowsell.....	14	.. 14	.. —	.. —
Mr. W. J. Salmon	14	.. 13	.. —	.. 1
Mr. W. J. Whybrew	11	.. 3	.. *8	.. —
Mr. B. Williams	3	.. 3	.. —	.. —

* Engaged on armaments work.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting of the Board held 17th June, 1914:—

Chairman.....Mr. S. Foulger.

Sectional ExecutiveMessrs. S. Foulger, A. Hainsworth,
W. T. Charter, M. H. Clear, and R. Rowsell.

Boundaries Committee..The members composing the Executive.

To Deal with Production Messrs. A. W. Golightly and
W. J. Salmon.

Representatives to the—

United Board Messrs. S. Foulger and M. H. Clear.

Office CommitteeMr. S. Foulger.

Central Education Committee Mr. A. W. Golightly.

Southern Education Association.....Mrs. M. A. Gasson and
Mr. W. J. Salmon.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The engagement of the nation in the European War has had such a marked effect upon the status of the co-operative movement that it seems impossible to prepare any report without reference to it. The result is contrary to that predicted by many who feared that societies would receive a disastrous setback. On the contrary, except in one or two cases, such as Yarmouth and Clacton, where the local industries of fishing or catering for visitors were

interrupted, it has brought increased sales and a general strengthening of the fabric.

The progress is quite general, London societies participating in the advance equally with country organisations, as is shown by the numerous references in the district reports to the opening of new branches and departments.

PROPAGANDA.

The following are particulars of the sectional conferences held during the year :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1914.			
25th April..	London....	The Effect of Co-operative Production on the Wage Earning Community.	Mr. B. Williams.
29th Aug...	London....	Co-operative Societies and the War.	Mr. T. G. Arnold.
24th Oct...	London (Swindon.)	The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War.	Mr. W. H. Brown.
1915.	London	Co-operation and Agricultural Produce.	Mr. N. E. Smith.
16th Jan...	(King's Lynn)		
3rd Mar...	London....	Railway Rates.	Mr. T. S. Pashley.

All the conferences have been well attended. The following resolution was unanimously carried on 25th April, 1914 :—" In view of the friendship existing between the co-operative and trade union movements, this conference is of opinion the time has arrived when they should engage in definite concerted action in educational, financial, and industrial constructive work, with a view to diverting the profits and unearned increment now passing to private owners of capital into such channels as will give the greatest benefit to the working classes. It urges upon the executive bodies of both the co-operative and trade union movement the desirability of forming a joint committee to suggest ways and means to this end."

Mr. Arnold's paper attracted a large number of delegates, and a resolution calling upon the Government to make better provision for disabled soldiers and sailors and their dependants was carried.

Mr. W. H. Brown's paper was found to be of excellent use for propaganda, and has since been read at many conferences in this and other sections.

Mr. Newton E. Smith's paper came at an opportune time in view of the establishment of a new agricultural department by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. It aroused great interest.

Early in the year a meeting of the Sectional Board with the district secretaries and chairmen was arranged for the purpose of eliciting information as to the districts most in need of special propaganda. Finally, Hastings and Ryde were recommended, and Mr. E. L. Griffiths has spent some time in each place with good results. The Hastings Society has benefited considerably in trade and membership. At Ryde there is a possibility that a branch of the Cowes Society will shortly be established.

The Board has been able to render considerable assistance to the Tiptree Society, where Mr. Salmon's regular attendance at committee meetings for several months has proved helpful. Much careful attention has also been given to Maidenhead and Bishop's Stortford, with good results.

AMALGAMATION.

During the year the negotiations between Addlestone and Cobham were satisfactorily concluded, and the latter ceased to exist as a separate society. The Royal Arsenal Society took over three branches from Sutton; High Wycombe absorbed the Marlow Branch of the Maidenhead Society; Staines and Hampton amalgamated; and West London took over Richmond. Negotiations were opened between Bishop's Stortford and Enfield Highway, but the war has interfered so much with the leisure time of the members of the Enfield committee that they have not yet been able to devote attention to concluding the business. In the meantime, Bishop's Stortford prospects are improving. The Board are strongly of opinion that many more unions can be brought about, with advantage to the members, if a broad view of the movement's welfare is steadily maintained.

OVERLAPPING.

Considerable success has attended the Board's intervention in overlapping cases. Fortunately, the societies involved have been desirous to come to terms without great friction, and the Board is happy to congratulate them on the friendly spirit shown. One of the most difficult cases was between Wolverton and Stony Stratford, which had dragged a course wearying to both parties for two or three years. A conference between the two committees was arranged, and after a full and frank discussion of all the circumstances a settlement satisfactory on all sides was arranged. In the same district, a little later, a boundary line between Wolverton and Newport Pagnell presented difficulties which co-operative good feeling on both sides quickly overcame. Similar observations would apply to the cases of Arlesey and Letchworth, and Addlestone and Woking. Yiewsley and Staines, and Greenstreet and Sittingbourne came to agreement without the assistance of the Board. At present the following cases are under consideration:—Aldershot and Camberley, Bishop's Stortford and Epping, and Croydon and Sutton.

There is some danger of a new form of overlapping arising owing to the desire of some agricultural societies to become affiliated to the Co-operative Wholesale Societies. So long as the agricultural societies confine their purchases to agricultural requirements there is no danger. Unfortunately,

there is a tendency to set up dealing in domestic supplies, and this is resented by the distributive society operating in the district. Basingstoke Society raised objection to the Oakley and District Co-operative Society becoming affiliated to the Co-operative Wholesale Society. A meeting of the two committees was held, and, in default of an agreement between the two societies being entered into, the following letter was received from the Oakley Agricultural Society :—

“Gentlemen,—I am desired to inform you that it is not the intention of the Oakley and District Co-operative Society to deal in domestic requirements, but in agricultural necessities. If at any time this intention is altered, the Oakley and District Society agrees to give the Basingstoke Industrial Society three months' notice.”

In reply to this the Basingstoke Society reserved the right to apply to the Co-operative Wholesale Society to cancel the Oakley membership in case they received notice that the latter society intended to deal in domestic requirements. Great care will be necessary to prevent friction arising from cases of this nature.

An agreement has existed during the year between the Dartford Society and Hartley Small Holdings Society, by which the latter supply produce direct to the Dartford members, and allow the society a commission to cover the usual dividend. The terms of the agreement are under revision at the time this report is written. The small holders are now desirous of affiliating to the Co-operative Wholesale Society. It is at present proposed to draw up an agreement containing a schedule of those articles which the Hartley Society may deal in without infringing the rights of the Dartford Society.

NEW SOCIETIES.

A new society has been registered at Guernsey (Channel Islands) under the name of the Forward Co-operative Society Limited. It has been well engineered from the start by Mr. Charles Marlow, and is affiliated to the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The Residential Co-operative Society Limited is a somewhat new departure. Its purpose is to finance and to manage residential clubs, of which several are now in existence. In London and the larger towns there is a distinct field for such organisations.

SOUTHERN CONVALESCENT FUND.

The fund this year completes ten years of service, and although, like every other institution, it has felt the influence of the war in some respects, the record for the year shows continued usefulness and increasing support from the societies in the section. Contributions from societies in 1914 amounted to £926, and grants were made to 56 societies on behalf of 405 members. Included in the total were 27 men and four women employes of contributing societies. Ordinary cases requiring grants under the £3 limit numbered 366, and cost £1. 14s. 4½d. per case. Twenty-one serious cases were provided with 5½ weeks' change at a cost of £4. 8s. 8d. per case.

As usual, a number of tuberculosis cases came under the committee's consideration, and eighteen such cases were assisted. The average cost of maintenance for an average stay of $8\frac{1}{2}$ weeks being £5. 13s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per case.

The three open-air shelters already established by the fund at Margate, Bournemouth, and Worthing respectively were well used, 20 persons in all being treated in them during the year. A fourth shelter was purchased and lent to the son of a member at Hayward's Heath for home use, with the best results.

It is interesting to record the sum total of the fund's operations for the ten years during which it has served the convalescent needs of the section. There are now 92 societies in membership, from whom subscriptions amounting to £6,327 have been received. Convalescents have contributed £358, and the number of cases benefited amount to 2,616, viz., 1,118 men, 1,101 women, and 397 children. Grants amounting to £5,421 have secured to these members 8,964 weeks' change of air.

We again appeal to societies in the section who have not yet joined the fund to give the matter earnest consideration.

LANTERN SLIDES AND LITERATURE.

Forty-eight applications for lantern slides had been dealt with and 3,898 slides sent out. The demand for literature has been well maintained, a great quantity having been disposed of. Over 300,000 copies of Mr. J. J. Mallon's paper have been sold throughout the country, many of the orders being received at the Central Office. A desire has been expressed that new leaflets dealing with co-operation's special value in war time should be prepared and issued.

CONCLUSION.

The Southern Section has every reason to be gratified with its position. at the close of a year fraught with such grave events. Co-operation is growing at a greater rate than ever before, and figures show that more progress is now being made in this section than in any other area. This is doubtless due to the fact that it was originally much behind other sections, and has a greater leeway to make up. Committees, managers, secretaries, employés, and members of propaganda bodies (including the District Executives and the Men's and Women's Guilds) all appear to be determined that it will never again be possible to refer to "deserts" when co-operation in the South is under discussion. The hearty congratulations of the Southern Board are tendered to all engaged in the great work.

S. FOULGER, Chairman.

B. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. H. Brown (chairman), Stratford.	Mr. J. Barnden, Brighton.
„ B. Williams, (secretary), 99, Leman Street, London, E.	Miss M. Grant, Dover.
Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Southern Sectional Board.	Mrs. L. A. Harrison, Woolwich.
Mr. M. H. Clear, Southern Sectional Board.	Mr. H. C. Licence, Colchester.
	„ J. L. Welch, Portsmouth.
	„ A. E. T. Wilson, Edmonton.
	Mrs. Wootton, Croydon.

The need of an organisation to encourage the study of music among Southern co-operators had been very keenly felt, and a proposal to establish a Southern Co-operative Choral Association met with warm support. The first general meeting of society representatives was held on Saturday, 4th April, 1914, on the Co-operative Wholesale Society's premises, 99, Leman Street, London, E. Following this, the first Choral Competition under the new auspices was held at the Alexandra Palace, on Saturday, 27th June, 1914, when six choirs competed in the senior, and nine in the junior contest.

The Penge and Beckenham Choir were the first to win the new shield which has been purchased out of the fund supplied by donations from co-operative societies, and the Portsea Island Children's Choir won the junior shield. Prizes were awarded to the conductors of the first and second choirs in each competition, and certificates to the singers in the first, second, and third choirs.

Mr. Montague Borwell, L.R.A.M., adjudicated with satisfaction to all concerned. The prizes were presented by Mr. Maton, chairman of the Edmonton Co-operative Society, at the concert held in the Great Hall of the Alexandra Palace, after the contest closed. Societies contributed £28. 16s. 4d. to the funds of the Association, and a balance of £8. 11s. 1d. was in hand at the close of the year.

Arrangements are in hand for the second competition to be held at the People's Palace, Mile End Road, London, E., on Saturday, 26th June, 1915.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTH METROPOLITAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. C. J. Farrow (chairman), Grays.
 „ F. P. Haywood (hon. sec.),
 Willesden.
 „ J. H. Bate, Stratford.
 „ G. J. Hiron, Brentwood.

Mr. J. Maton, Edmonton.
 „ T. I. Rice, Enfield Highway.
 „ C. Rudall, West London.
 „ A. Wiggins, Watford.

Conferences have been held as follows:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Chesham	Development of Co-operative Effort.	Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P.
Edmonton	War and Co-operative Movement.	Mr. W. H. Hoskins.
Watford	Propaganda: Its Scope and Importance.	Mr. J. Maton.
Stratford	Co-operation with other Forces.	Mr. B. Williams.

Co-operation in the North Metropolitan district has shown great activity during the last twelve months, and the societies report large increases in membership, share capital, and trade. The principal societies are gradually extending their boundaries and opening numerous branches, all of which prove that co-operation is getting more widely known and better appreciated by the working classes in the different districts. The demand for numerous branches, if carried out, would entail the expenditure of vast sums of money, and societies have to carefully guard against over-capitalisation. Good prospects undoubtedly exist, and if catered for in an efficient manner would ensure certain success.

The various organisations, such as Educational Committees, Women's Guilds, and Men's Guilds, have exhibited great enthusiasm in their work, and that the spread of co-operation has been achieved is shown by the larger and more reliable demand for co-operative productions which have sprung up.

The conferences called by the District Association have been well attended, the papers read have been well received, the discussions of a high order, and

there is, consequently, a better understanding of the questions affecting the movement.

Notwithstanding the war the trade and position of societies has been improved and the loyalty of members has increased. The fact that societies were able to regulate prices at the outbreak of hostilities has tended to this result. The claims of the Army for men have been met, and many co-operative employés have joined the Colours.

The fusion of forces has been before the delegates at conferences, and the voting taken. The result of the card voting is as follows :—Resolution No. 1 : For, 21; against, 56. Resolution No. 2 : For, 73; against, 9. Resolution No. 3 : For, 8; against, 77.

The following is the expenditure for the year :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	9	0	7
Deputations, &c.	3	0	9
Printing and Stationery	1	4	6
Postage	1	11	7
	<hr/>		
	£14	17	5

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	6	15 1	By Grant towards Delegate's Ex-		
„ Donations—			penses to Congress.....	2	0 0
Chesham	0	5 0	„ Printing of Conference Papers ..	1	5 0
Watford	1	1 0	„ Balance in hand	6	18 1
Stratford	2	2 0			
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	£10	3 1		£10	3 1

F. P. HAYWOOD, Hon. Secretary.

No. 2.—SOUTH METROPOLITAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Harding (chairman), Penge.
 „ J. Dickinson, (hon. sec.), Abbey
 Wood.
 „ D. W. Cooper, Sutton.
 „ H. Colpus, Godalming.

Mr. R. R. Wale, Woolwich.
 „ S. Whitbourne, Woking.
 „ W. J. Harris, Guildford.
 „ C. J. Beese, Staines.

Conferences have been held as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Croydon	Milestones.	Mr. Newton E. Smith.
Staines	District and Society Organisation.	Mr. B. Williams.
Penge	The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War.	Mr. W. H. Brown.
Bromley	Co-operation with other Forces.	Mr. J. Dickinson.

The conferences have been well attended and the subjects presented well discussed. There was some anxiety felt in the early days of the war as to how far this would interfere with propaganda and educational work, fortunately there has, so far, been very little need to depart from the ordinary methods of district work, and, instead of the war interfering with propaganda work, it has enabled us to show what an influence for good co-operation has been in the steadying of prices of commodities, especially during the first few days following the declaration of the war. From nearly all parts of the district come reports of progress.

During the year the Croydon Society has opened handsome new central premises, and has greatly increased its trade and membership.

The Penge Society shows marked increases.

The Woking Society has done well, especially at its Surbiton Branch, which was at one time the premises of the Surbiton Society.

The forces of co-operation have further been consolidated during the year by the amalgamation of the Addlestone and Cobham societies, and the taking over by Staines of the Hampton-on-Thames Society. Coming to the London area, the Woolwich Society has acquired three branches of the Sutton Society, thereby enabling the Sutton Society to develop more local activity. In addition to this the Woolwich Society has opened three new branches, and shows an increase for the year of £177,961.

The development of co-operative business and the co-operative idea in this district during the past year gives much promise for the future.

The following is the expenditure for the year :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	17	4	9
Printing and Stationery	2	19	3
Postage	1	12	2
Deputations	1	5	10
	<hr/>		
	£23	2	0

J. DICKINSON, Hon. Secretary.

No. 3.—KENT.

Executive Committee.

Mr. D. Flemming (chairman), Chatham.	Mr. J. H. Clunne, Gravesend.
Mr. M. H. Clear (hon. sec.), Sheerness.	„ W. Copping, Sittingbourne.
Rev. C. A. Ginever, Dover.	„ H. A. Carpenter, Faversham.
Mr. G. Wood, Sheerness Co-operative.	„ H. J. V. Wildash, Greenstreet.
„ W. Underhill, Canterbury.	„ G. Whibley, Cliffe-at-Hoo.
„ W. Angear, Sheerness Economical.	„ J. Norris, Ramsgate.
„ Kite, Rochester.	„ H. W. Black, Rainham.
„ A. D. Banks, Ashford.	„ R. Werren, Tonbridge.
„ G. Mitchell, Maidstone.	„ A. J. Curling, Barge Builders.
„ H. Riches, Dartford.	„ Cooke, Walmer.
„ J. Gill, Gillingham.	

Conferences held during the year as tabulated :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Sheerness Economical Society.	The Effect of Co-operative Production on the Wage-earning Community. Special for General Committees only :—	Mr. B. Williams.
Faversham	The Linking Up of Kentish Societies for Motor and Transport Service. Special for Educational Committees only :—	Mr. Charter.
Rainham	Educational Committees and District Representation. Motor Transport in the Kent District. The Southern Sectional Choral Association—C.W.S. Cinema Lecture Tours. The Southern Co-operative Educational Association and the Necessity for its Support.	Mr. Fielder. Mr. Baylis. Mr. Mark H. Clear. Mr. W. J. Foster.
Chatham	Fusion of Forces.	Mr. R. Rowsell.
Greenstreet	District and Society Organisation.	Mr. B. Williams.

The attendances at the conferences have been fairly good, but not equal to peace times.

The work of the district was in full swing and had splendid prospects for a winter campaign when all was upset by the great outbreak of war. The response for men for the new army found Kent inundated with recruits. Societies were called upon to make provision, not only with feeding and clothing, but with housing the troops. Halls, spare rooms, libraries, reading-rooms, and even boardrooms were commandeered. One society had built a

new branch in a growing suburb, costing £1,200, and when completed the military took possession of the branch manager's house for officers' quarters and the shop for an office and store. Numerous other instances could be recorded how the pressure of military needs were met by co-operative societies. Thousands of co-operators' houses had to billet soldiers, and this meant increased purchases at the stores, and as a result every society shows remarkable increases in sales, quite apart from increased prices. This only followed when stocks and contracts ran out; prices were kept down while societies could manage same. In new premises, branches, and departments nearly every society reports progress.

The Barge Builders and Carriers' Society is in grave difficulties, due mainly to want of capital, and because part of its operations have to contend with the great cement combines. But never was the need of this society's care and development more clearly demonstrated than during the past eight months. Water-borne goods rate has gone up by leaps and bounds, and the congested state of our railways means that transit, owned and controlled by the people for the people, is the only way out of the clutches of the profiteers. Collective carrying ownership would solve a great burden for the Kentish societies.

One society, after more than a quarter of a century, has adopted half-yearly dividends, instead of quarterly.

Five societies have subscribed towards the funds of the newly-established Southern Sectional Choral Association. These also entered choirs in the contest at the Alexandra Palace with moderate successes. It is to be hoped that every society will see its way to become identified with the work and operations of the Choral Association.

By pressing home the claims and the good work done by the Southern Co-operative Convalescent Fund, 15 societies are members and contributors out of the 22 societies comprising the Kent district. Fifty-nine cases received benefit, having 219 weeks in approved homes and areas.

Inquiries continue to be made from small country centres asking for guidance to start a society, but no encouragement is given nor help afforded, because all are convinced that the day for small stores is past. Every effort is made, however, to induce these people to give such of their custom to a near at hand society as will warrant a branch being opened in the near future. A unique attempt is being made to organise and establish an Oyster Fishery Productive Society, and an attempt will be made to switch the desire on to the Sheerness Society, who are owners of oyster grounds.

The District Executive pressed home by resolution the claims and needs for better pay and pensions for our sailors and soldiers and their dependents. This was acknowledged by the Cabinet Ministers sent to.

The district congress rota having run out societies were approached and asked if they desired the scheme renewed, and nine responded in the affirmative. The system adopted is the pooling of the delegates' expenses, which is a scale approved by those concerned, then apportion same *pro rata*

per membership. This co-operative Congress delegate plan enables small societies to get in turn a delegate to all Congresses wherever held.

What lies before us in the future none can tell, but ever keeping the great and vast possibilities before the people our hopes are sturdy and strong.

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.		£ s. d.	Expenditure.		£ s. d.
To Balance brought forward from	last year	5 3 11	By Committee Meetings		4 6 4
„ Ashford		2 2 0	„ Postage and Telegrams		2 2 2
„ Canterbury		1 0 11	„ Conferences and Propaganda		27 18 1
„ Chatham		4 10 0	„ Printing and Stationery		3 18 8
„ Cliffe-at-Hoo		0 14 1	„ Advisory Work		5 6 7
„ Dartford		3 19 0	„ Balance		25 11 5
„ Faversham		2 3 9			
„ Gravesend		4 7 10			
„ Greenstreet		0 13 9			
„ Maidstone		1 12 0			
„ Gillingham (New Brompton)		10 0 0			
„ Rainham		1 2 4			
„ Ramsgate		1 8 0	Audited—		
„ River and District (Dover)		9 14 0	W. R. ANGEAR.		
„ Rochester		3 2 6			
„ Sheerness Co-operative		4 5 0			
„ „ Economical		3 8 5			
„ Sittingbourne		7 3 8			
„ Tonbridge		1 2 1			
„ Walmer and Mongeham		1 10 0			
		£69 3 3			£69 3 3

MARK H. CLEAR, Hon. Secretary.

No. 4.—SUSSEX.

* Executive Committee.

Mr. B. H. Baker (chairman), Newhaven.	Mr. W. Gatland, Crawley.
„ H. C. Kille (hon. sec.), Eastbourne.	„ W. Dallaway, Brighton.
Mrs. J. Green, Hastings.	„ J. Scrace, Tunbridge Wells.
Mr. G. Daughy, Arundel.	„ Atkins, Lewes.

The following conferences were held during the Congress year:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Lewes	War and the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. Watford.
Brighton	Co-operative Tradition and Freedom of Discussion.	Mrs. Green.
Tunbridge Wells .	Co-operation and Agricultural Produce.	Mr. Smith.

Since our last report three conferences have been held, and the attendance and interest at each has been very good.

Hastings Society, which we reported as being in low water last year, is now doing better, thanks to the supervision of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the help it received from the Joint Propaganda Committee, who let us have the services of Mr. Griffiths (their organiser) for fourteen days and granted us a sum of money to meet expenses. The result is very gratifying. All the other societies in our district are doing well.

Although the outlook was bad at the beginning of the war, things improved, as many thousands of the new troops were billeted on our members, so that all our societies report large increases of sales and good results.

We have endeavoured to get in touch with friends at Horsham, with the hope of again establishing the movement there, but until after the war we are afraid it will be of no avail.

The expenditure during the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings..	10	0	2½
Conferences in London	6	16	0
Propaganda	12	6	2½
Printing	0	16	0
Postage	0	18	10
	<hr/>		
	£30	17	3

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Brighton	9	2	0	By Propaganda—Hastings	1	19	0
„ Newhaven	4	0	0	„ Delegate's Expenses	0	10	9
„ Tunbridge Wells	3	8	0	„ Balance	14	0	3
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£16	10	0		£16	10	0

H. C. KILLE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 5.—HANTS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. Bowerman (chairman), Portsmouth.	Mr. R. Hibberd, Parkstone.
„ J. L. Welch (hon. sec.); Portsmouth.	„ E. Ruddock, Eastleigh.
„ R. S. Pearce, Southampton.	„ Sanders, Farnham.
„ W. Hutchings, Winchester.	„ Dudman, Basingstoke.

Conferences held during the year :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Andover	Rural Villages and Co-operation . . .	Mr. Wade.
Farnham	Education from a Co-operative Standpoint.	Mr. R. Hibberd.
Parkstone	Co-operation and Trade Unions . . .	Mr. Whybrew.
Basingstoke	Co-operative Societies and the War.	Mr. Hainsworth.

The conferences as above have been very well attended, and great interest has been shown in all the subjects introduced.

The general progress of our movement in the South is very marked. Some small set-backs have been experienced, but nearly all the societies in the district have made very substantial increases. At Aldershot, Andover, Basingstoke, Cowes, Eastleigh, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Winchester central premises have been extended, new branches opened, or progress has been made in some other direction. The small society at Petersfield is now free of its encumbrances and full of life and vigour.

We regret to report that a determined attempt to start a society, or a branch of an existing society, at Ryde has not been successful. The chief reason for this temporary failure was that the two Isle of Wight societies were at the time making some extensive business changes; and, consequently, could not see their way to undertake further responsibilities for a time.

Educational work is being pushed on throughout the whole district; meetings have been held in outlying villages, and the policy of extending established societies rather than starting new ones is being pursued.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	25	13	11
Printing, Postage, and Stationery	4	1	3
Deputations	11	10	11
	<hr/>		
	£41	6	1

J. L. WELCH, Hon. Secretary.

NO. 6.—WILTS AND DORSET.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. R. Box (hon. sec.), Trowbridge.	Mr. J. H. Stowe, Trowbridge.
„ W. H. Ashby, Chippenham.	„ A. P. England, Weymouth.
„ C. J. Cane, Salisbury.	„ D. G. Slocombe, Devizes.
„ F. W. Symes, Warminster.	„ A. E. Angell, Bradford-on-Avon.

The war has had a marked effect on our work. At one time it was decided to let propaganda work alone, but after some consideration it was decided to go on as usual.

Four conferences have been held during the year, which have been well attended, and the interest in this part of our work is well maintained.

We have given considerable help to Amesbury Society, which was very low. The committee sent delegates to address public meetings in their behalf, and we hope they have turned the corner. Credit is due to the manager, who has worked hard, and to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for help rendered.

The rest of the societies in the district are holding their own, except Mere, which has passed through trying times.

No. 7.—OXFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Webb (chairman), Banbury.
 „ E. King (hon. sec.), Oxford.
 „ C. E. Taylor, Swindon.
 „ H. Wooldridge, Reading.

Mr. F. R. Cook, Sunningdale.
 „ A. E. Perkins, Windsor.
 „ L. A. Taffs, Slough.
 „ E. White, High Wycombe.

The year 1914 will long be remembered as the one in which the great European war commenced, and the record of co-operative progress will necessarily be affected by that great calamity.

The early months of the year were devoted to the ordinary propaganda work usual in a scattered district. Trade on the whole showed fair expansion, although Windsor had to lament the check to visitors to their town through the closing of the Castle and show places on account of the actions of the militant section of the suffragettes. The outbreak of war and the firm stand taken by societies over the question of maintaining, as nearly as possible, normal prices, had the effect of attracting a large number of new members to our movement, and the resulting increased trade has enabled some societies to create new records.

During the year High Wycombe has taken over a branch of Maidenhead at Marlow, with mutually satisfactory results. Oxford has opened a new branch at Dorchester-on-Thames, and rebuilt a new store at Abingdon. Camberley has built new central premises and bakery, with meeting hall, and increased trade should result.

The commandeering of horses for military purposes has induced Reading and Swindon to adopt motor traction. The number of societies in the district using motor vehicles now amounts to six.

Assistance at meetings has been rendered by members of the committee to Camberley, High Wycombe, and Maidenhead, and increased interest in the movement has been observable in the respective areas.

Five conferences have been held as under :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
High Wycombe ..	The Relation of Co-operation to other Working-class Organisations. (Mr. May's Paper.)	Mr. Ramsey.
Slough	Advertising the Co-operative Movement, and how to do it. (Mr. Rockley's Paper.)	Mr. Biggs.
Swindon	Trades Unionism in Relation to the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. J. Beattie.
Reading	The War and the Co-operative Movement. (Mr. Williams' Paper.)	Mr. M. H. Clear.
Oxford	District and Society Organisation.	Mr. B. Williams.

At the first-named the progress of a strike among the chairmakers of Wycombe afforded an opportunity of advocating a co-operative method of industrialism, there being a fair representation of the unions present. A kindred subject at Swindon was also well discussed.

Mr. Rockley's views of advertising found little favour at Slough, although the need for energetic propaganda was recognised.

The need for concerted action by the movement upon the outbreak of war was responsible for the discussion at Reading. "No panic," "Business as usual," was the keynote throughout.

At Oxford Mr. Williams outlined a scheme for arousing and maintaining a closer interest between societies, and also for retaining the interest of the individual member. On the first part of the paper the following resolution was unanimously carried :—

That this conference is of opinion that the societies in the Oxford District Association not officially represented on the Executive Committee should be asked to appoint delegates each year to attend all its meetings, the expenses to be borne either by the societies so represented or by the district fund as may be found most feasible.

The following is an account of expenditure :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	12	19	8
Deputations	4	0	9
General Printing	1	10	0
Postage and Stationery	1	5	2

£19 15 7

Our district fund has again been most helpful in lending the assistance of speakers at meetings of societies experiencing depression. Such assistance is most cordially given, and gratefully accepted, and encourages that close relationship between societies advocated by the sectional secretary.

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st January, 1914		18	17	0	By Deputations		3	7	10
" Subscriptions—					" Printing		3	1	3
Windsor		0	10	6	" Postages, Rent, &c.		0	16	10
Banbury ..		1	1	0	" District Committee Meetings				
Oxford		3	3	0	(fares only).....		0	16	8
Swindon		1	1	0	" Balance, 31st Dec., 1914		21	1	5
Sunningdale		0	10	0					
Reading		2	10	0					
Chipping Norton		1	1	0					
High Wycombe.....		0	10	6					
		£29	4	0			£29	4	0

EDWARD KING, Hon. Secretary.

No. 8.—CAMBRIDGE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Sayer (chairman), Ely.	Mr. C. Martin, Bishop's Stortford.
„ W. Resbury (hon. sec.), Sawston.	„ J. F. Cole, Letchworth.
„ G. B. Poppy, Newmarket.	„ F. Barnard, Cambridge.
„ F. G. P. Radclyffe, Garden City Press.	„ F. R. Simmons, Saffron Walden.

Conferences have been held during the year as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
St. Neots	Agricultural Co-operation and its Relation to Co-operative Distributive Societies.	Mr. B. Williams.
Letchworth	The Co-operative Union's Report and Resolutions as submitted to Congress.	Mr. W. Resbury.
Bishops Stortford	Amalgamation of Societies as a means of Consolidating the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. Rowsell.
Cambridge	Co-operation with other Forces	Mr. Rowsell.

The average attendance of delegates at these conferences has been well maintained.

The Executive has met for special business on two occasions.

During the year a special representative committee has been formed, consisting of one representative from every society in the district desiring to be represented. The first meeting was held on 18th July, and useful information was laid before the committee with a view to increased propaganda. It is hoped that good will result from its meetings, as we can now get in touch with all societies in our district.

A report has been sent in from all societies showing their position since the outbreak of war, and without any exception the societies have maintained their position, and in most cases show large increases in membership, trade, and profits. The withdrawals from share capital have been normal.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	15	15	3
Deputations	4	11	7
Printing and Stationery	2	9	1
Postage	0	13	6
	<hr/>		
	£23	9	5

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance.....	20	13 9	By Deputations	1	14 3
„ Bank Interest and Dividend	0	10 0	„ Congress Delegate	5	0 0
„ Subscriptions—			„ Special Committee Expenses....	2	16 9
Cambridge Society.....	5	0 0	„ Printing and Stationery	0	5 0
Newmarket „	3	3 0	„ Postage	0	2 0
Sawston „	2	0 0	„ Balance at Bank	17	12 7
			„ „ in Secretary's hands	3	16 2
	£31	6 9		£31	6 9

W. RESBURY, Hon. Secretary.

No. 9.—NORFOLK.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. Mayes (chairman), Wymondham	Mr. H. J. Yates, Fakenham.
„ W. Tidd (Hon. Sec.), Norwich	„ A. G. Spencer, Thetford.
„ T. S. Reeve, Norwich.	„ P. W. Rayment, Lowestoft.
„ T. A. Furbank, King's Lynn.	„ W. Speare, Beccles.

At the opening of the year 1914 we had great hopes that something would be accomplished in this district of an extension in agricultural co-operation. With this object in view we made efforts in propaganda work in villages adjacent to societies, unfortunately, our plans have been put back for a time by the outbreak of war, and we had to forego our original ideas and substitute other subjects for discussion as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Bury St. Edmunds	The Conditions Essential to Co-operative Production.	Mr. W. T. Charter.
Beccles.....	Securing Members and Making Co-operators. (Mr. W. H. Brown's Paper.)	Mr. F. T. Peachy.
Brandon	The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War.	Mr. B. Williams.

The first conference was held on 12th March, and we were honoured by the presence of representatives from societies outside our immediate district. The subject was one of the number dealing with agriculture which we intended to follow up by others, for, as the writer claimed, the essential to production is to possess the land. The following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

That this conference of representatives of the Norfolk District consider the time has arrived when the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and other productive organisations, should immediately give attention to the acquiring of land for the purpose of securing

raw material at first hand, as they feel it a menace to the movement generally that the bulk of the supplies to our factories should come, as at present, through such agencies as are opposed to the co-operative movement, and have for their object the keeping up of prices against the consumers' interests.

The second conference was held at Beccles on 11th July. The paper contained valuable suggestions to make co-operators after they had become members.

The third conference was held at Brandon on 31st October. The subject, although changed from the original, proved to be one of great interest, and the discussion was well maintained.

Visits have been made to societies, and in some cases we have been asked by committees to meet and consult with them upon questions affecting their work. Public meetings have been held in many villages and attended by members of the District Committee, so that in the midst of storm and stress we have in some degree kept the flag of co-operation flying.

The expenditure for the year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings.....	10	12	1
Deputations	12	11	0
Printing ..	2	14	6
Postage and Stationery	2	10	0
	£28	7	7

W. TIDD, Hon. Secretary.

NO. 10.—ESSEX AND SUFFOLK.

Executive Committee.

Mr. A. W. Kibble (chairman), Halstead.	Mr. G. Ryder, Colchester.
„ W. J. Salmon (hon. sec.), Colchester.	„ G. Barker, Wickham Market.
„ S. Foulger, Ipswich.	„ B. S. Wood, Braintree.

The following conferences have been held during the year:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Clacton.....	A Plea for a Forward Movement (Mr. Pollitt's Paper.)	Mr. Ryder.
Ipswich	Co-operative Societies and the War Crisis ..	Mr. S. Foulger.
Chelmsford ...	Fusion of Forces	Mr. Rowsell.

The attendance and interest at our conferences have been well maintained. At Clacton Mr. Pollitt's paper provoked a useful discussion, but his suggestion that a portion of the society's profits should be compulsorily

allocated for the purpose of productive enterprise did not find favour with the delegates.

At Ipswich many interesting and useful points were raised and discussed, such as the policy to be adopted in connection with the possible run on share capital, the price and supply of goods, and the advisability or otherwise of supplying non-members when there was any possibility of a shortage in supply. Mr. H. Read (manager, Ipswich Society) and Mr. Young (Co-operative Wholesale Society) gave some very practical and interesting information on the general position.

At Chelmsford considerable discussion ensued on the Union statement. The voting was by card, and the result was as follows:—For Resolution No. 1, none; Resolution No. 2, 13; Resolution No. 3, 19.

Since our last report our esteemed colleague, Mr. G. Young, who had been a member of the District Committee and secretary of the Chelmsford Society for many years, has passed away. Volumes could be written of his untiring zeal and work for our movement, but as space is limited we can only say that he was a man of sound judgment, ripe experience, and of undoubted integrity, and one of whom it can be truly said that the world is the richer for his life and labour.

Referring to the general position of societies in this district we are glad to report progress, and that we have been able to assist by deputation and propaganda in one or two instances where temporary difficulties have arisen. We regret, however, that no definite step has been taken at Walton-on-the-Naze, the war having rendered it impossible for neighbouring societies to extend their activities so far from their centre, and the prospects not being sufficiently good to warrant starting a new society.

The expenditure for the year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	10	19	1
Deputations	4	8	6
Printing and Stationery	0	4	6
Postage	1	12	3
	<hr/>		
	£17	4	4

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance forward	2	6	2		By Propaganda Meetings	2	16	10	
" Ipswich Society	2	2	0		" Deputations	3	17	10	
" Colchester Society	2	2	0		" Expenses, Postage, & Stationery.	0	8	6	
" Chelmsford Society	1	1	0		" Balance in hand	6	12	6	
" Haverhill Society	1	1	0						
" Witham Society	1	1	0						
" Halstead Society	1	1	0						
" Harwich Society	1	0	0						
" Braintree Society	0	10	6						
" Maldon Society	0	10	6						
" Leiston Society	0	10	6						
" Wickham Market Society	0	10	0						
	<hr/>								
	£13	15	8				£13	15	8

Audited—
W. RIGGS.

W. J. SALMON, Hon. Secretary.

No. 11.—BEDS. AND BUCKS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. H. Barton (chairman), Luton.	Mr. H. Dolling, Wolverton.
„ C. T. Goldsmith (secretary), Bedford.	„ W. Mutton, Hemel Hempstead.
„ P. Brightman, Silcoe.	„ W. Taylor, Stony Stratford.
„ Joseph Day, Berkhamsted.	„ Thos. Walker, Aylesbury.

Our second year has justified the high hopes we entertained of happy mutual service. An admirable feeling of camaraderie exists among the societies in the district, and this spirit the Executive seeks to foster. The special district fund instituted last year has been very useful in enabling members of the Executive to visit the smaller village societies, of which, in an essentially agricultural district, we have rather a large proportion, and thus a closer link of comradeship has been forged between the larger town and smaller rural societies.

With our societies the year, generally speaking, has been very favourable. This has been more marked since the war began. Large bodies of troops have been trained in our area, and even where societies have not obtained direct military contracts the extra purchasing power caused by the presence of the troops has sent up the sales considerably. Another influence, and probably a more lasting one, has been the societies' efforts to keep down prices as much as possible. We have had numerous instances of the public's appreciation of our attitude in this matter, and a consequent considerable influx of members. It is gratifying to learn that societies, for the most part, are taking advantage of this tide of prosperity to husband their extra profits in reserves ready for the ebb flow which must inevitably come sooner or later.

The conferences of the year have been as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
St. Albans	The Conditions Essential to Co-operative Production.	Mr. W. T. Charter.
Olney	Questions arising from the War....	Mr. B. Williams.
Aylesbury	Items of Interest to Co-operators..	Mr. H. Bentley.
Wolverton	Co-operation with other Forces....	Mr. Rowsell.

All the conferences have been remarkably well attended, and the discussions free, bright, and helpful. We have been fortunate in having the writers of the papers to read them. That upon Mr. Charter's paper on

"The Conditions Essential to Co-operative Production," displayed a deep interest in this phase of the movement, and an earnest desire to get on with it. Mr. Williams' paper and advice on "Questions arising from the War" were most opportune, and were of considerable assistance to management committees at a very anxious time. Mr. Bentley's paper, "Items of interest to Co-operators," raised many extremely debatable issues and a lively discussion followed.

We have been pleased to break new ground in so far that several committees which had not been accustomed to sending delegates to our conferences have been persuaded to do so by the fraternal visits of district executive members.

The outlook for our conference association, for the movement in general in our district, and for the societies in particular, is very encouraging. There is plenty of scope for development, and nearly all the societies are opening out in new territory. St. Albans has opened a branch at Hatfield, but, as a rule, the extensions take the form of van deliveries, which appear more suited to a sparsely populated area.

The expenditure for the year has been :—

	£	s.	d.
Conference Expenses.....	13	7	1
Deputations	2	15	2
Printing	1	0	0
Postage and Stationery	1	7	11
	<hr/>		
	£18	10	2

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance in hand 31st Mar., 1914..	7	1 3	By Printing Mr. Bentley's Paper for		
„ Subscriptions:—			Aylesbury Conference	2	4 6
Aylesbury	0	10 6	„ Visitation Expenses	0	2 9
Bedford	0	10 6	„ Expenses of Olney Conference ..	0	12 6
„ Education Committee..	0	5 0	„ Preparation of Food Pamphlets		
Berkhamsted Education Com.	0	5 0	(Contribution to four societies'		
Hemel Hempstead.....	0	5 0	expenses)	0	15 6
Luton	1	1 0	„ Postage.....	0	2 0
Olney	0	10 6	„ Balance in hand, 31st Jan., 1915..	7	2 0
Wolverton Education Com....	0	10 6			
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	£10	19 3		£10	19 3.

CHAS. T. GOLDSMITH, Hon. Secretary.

SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

Executive Council.

Mr. E. J. Bull (Southern District Council A.U.C.E.), President.

Mr. B. Williams (Co-operative Union, Southern Section), Secretary.

Mr. W. J. Foster (hon. sec.), Bass Dressers.

Miss E. E. M. Allen, Reigate.

Mr. G. Carter, Oxford.

Mrs Elliott, Edmonton.

Mr. F. C. Harrison, Walworth.

Mr. L. W. Law, Grays.

Miss J. P. Madams, Co-operative Brotherhood Trust.

Mrs. Tucker, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

Miss C. Webb, Wimbledon.

Mr. J. Williams, Swindon.

Mrs. Gasson and Mr. W. J. Salmon, representing the Southern Sectional Board.

In common with all other educational agencies, the association has found its work considerably hampered by the calls which have been made on the time and energy of its workers by the various relief committees and other work occasioned by the outbreak of war. The Council, however, felt that the national crisis most strongly emphasised the urgent necessity for an extension of educational activity. They realised that if English democracy was to be prepared to take its part in deciding the destiny of the country when terms of peace are being considered, and when peace has been restored, then now was the time when their energies should be directed to fitting themselves for the work that is before them. With this end in view the Council have, so far as was practicable, carried out their programme.

Eleven Council meetings and four conferences have been held during the year.

The first was held on 4th April, 1914, when Mr. P. F. Masters gave an address on "Education and Working Class Unity." Mr. Masters pointed out that the workers of England had arrived at a stage where they were not content to remain mere drudges; they were asking for a higher standard of living and for opportunities for living a higher and fuller life.

The second conference (the annual meeting of the association) was held at the Working Men's College, London, on 20th June, 1914. Mr. Rae (chairman of the Central Educational Committee) gave a stirring address on "The Educational Programme," and pointed out that in drawing up the programme the Educational Committee had two main ends in view—the making of good co-operators and good citizens, and the making of useful co-operators or efficient employés. The former was general, the latter more of a technical character, intended to make not only good co-operators, but also useful co-operators as apprentices, salesmen, managers, and secretaries. He even ventured to hope that in time it would be as essential for committee-men to show their diploma as it would be for salesmen and managers.

The third conference was held on 25th November, 1914, when Mr. W. J. Salmon (Central Board) read a paper on "The Organisation of Educational Work for Co-operative Employés." He stated that one of the principal difficulties in organising classes for employés was the scarcity of efficient teachers. This point was emphasised in the discussion which followed, and a resolution was passed calling on the Central Educational Committee to at once appoint a permanent teacher for the purpose of organising and teaching classes in this section.

The fourth conference was held on 20th February, 1915, when Mrs. Harris (Guildford) and Mr. W. T. Davis (Woolwich) read papers dealing with "The Organisation of Educational Work for Young People." A strong appeal was made to educational committees to see that the children were catered for every week, either by means of classes or junior guilds, and the following suggestions were made :—The Central Educational Committee of the Co-operative Union should (a) publish a helpful guide for junior guild workers; (b) appoint organisers to train junior guild workers to visit junior guilds and to interview local educational committees; (c) circularise local educational committees and press strongly for the establishment of junior guilds; (d) devote some pages of the educational programme to this work; (e) improve and increase their stock of lantern slides.

A social evening was held after the meeting on 20th November, 1914, when Dr. Gilbert Slater (Principal of Ruskin College) gave an address on "What Educational Committees should be doing now." He said it was the duty of educational committees to be preparing their members and public opinion so that after the war industry should be organised on the basis of service, and not on a capitalistic basis of exploitation and private gain.

Lectures and addresses have been given in connection with district associations.

Miss Madams has continued to represent the association on the Central Educational Committee, and Mrs. Gasson and Mr. W. J. Salmon have represented the Southern Sectional Board on the Council of the association. The exchange of opinions thus obtained has helped considerably in the furtherance of educational work generally.

At the annual meeting of the association its work and financial position was carefully considered, and suggestions made that steps should be taken in order to secure—

(a) Adequate financial support to the association.

(b) A closer and more direct relationship with all the local educational committees on the one hand, and with the Sectional Board and the Central Educational Committee on the other.

(c) The amendment of the constitution of the association as may be necessary to enable it to act as an organic rather than an auxiliary part of the educational machinery of the movement.

A resolution was passed asking the Southern Sectional Board to appoint its chairman and secretary to confer with the Council as to possible improve-

ments of educational work in this section. The suggested conference was held, and in order to bring the association closely in touch with the Sectional Board, and to relieve it of some of its financial difficulties, Mr. B. Williams (secretary to the Sectional Board) was, with their sanction, appointed secretary of the association, a change which will have a considerable influence on the educational work in this section and greatly increase the usefulness of the association.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

EDWARD J. BULL, President.

W. J. FOSTER, Hon. Secretary.

B. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

(7) SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

The Board has held twelve meetings during the year, the attendances being as follows :—

	Ordinary Meetings.		Special Meetings.	
	Possible.	Actual.	Possible.	Actual.
Mr. H. J. Drake	10	10	2	2
Mr. W. J. Gilbert (secretary) ..	10	5†	2	2
Mr. R. R. Prynne (chairman) ..	10	7†	2	1
Mr. C. W. Uglow	10	9*	2	2
Mr. W. H. Watkins	10	9*	2	2
Mr. C. Vaughan (hon member)	10	4	2	1
Mr. T. Gidley ,,	10	0	2	0
Mr. J. Pryor ,,	8	2	2	1

* Mr. W. H. Watkins attending meeting of Office Committee.

† Messrs. Gilbert and Uglow have been prevented from attendance at all meetings by exigences of H.M. service.

‡ Mr. R. R. Prynne has been a resident in London for a portion of the year.

At the first meeting of the Board, the following appointments were made :—

Chairman : Mr. R. R. Prynne. *Treasurer* : Mr. C. W. Uglow.

Secretary : Mr. W. J. Gilbert.

Representatives to the—

United Board and Office Committee, Mr. R. R. Prynne.

Central Educational Committee and South-Western Educational

Committee Association Mr. H. J. Drake.

Representatives to the District Associations—

Devon Mr. W. J. Gilbert.

Cornwall Mr. C. W. Uglow.

Somerset Mr. W. H. Watkins.

The addition of Messrs. Vaughan and Pryor's names to the list of honorary members of the Board is very gratifying, and is a fitting recognition of the many years of their co-operative activity in the South-West.

The suggested nomination of Mr. Pryor has since been held by the Union's Solicitors to be invalid.

In view of the fact that the condition of certain societies was causing no little anxiety, the Board took an early opportunity of meeting the Devon District Executive, and with that organisation agreed to concentrate their energies on the work of strengthening these societies. The activities of the Board were, subsequently, somewhat limited by circumstances over which the Board had no control. Mr. R. R. Prynne received an important appointment as head organiser of the Fisheries Organisation Society, an appointment which necessitated his removal to London. Mr. W. J. Gilbert was temporarily

appointed to Aberdeen on Admiralty service, and this involved the temporary appointment of Mr. W. H. Watkins as secretary to the South-Western Board.

CONFERENCES.

The usual quarterly district conferences have been held, and considerable attention has been given to the subject of "District Representation on the South-Western Board." The societies were also circularised *re* the latter subject, with the result that at a special meeting of the Board, convened to consider this matter, it was ascertained that out of 75 societies, with an aggregate of 153 votes, 33 societies, with a total of 47 votes, were in favour of district representation, and two, with a total of 42 votes, were not in favour of it. Since the Board meeting, three societies, with a total of 19 votes, have recorded their vote in favour of it. Apart from this subject the most important matters dealt with have been "The Relationship of Agricultural and Distributive Co-operation," "The Duty of Co-operators in the Present Situation," "Co-operators and the War," and "Store Management."

A special sectional conference has also dealt with the subject of fusion of forces.

The voting upon the three resolutions contained in the Union circular was as follows:—Resolution No. 1: For, 85; against, 2. Resolution No. 2: For, 3; against, 85. Resolution No. 3: For, 1; against, 86.

At the close of the latter conference the following important resolution was adopted:—

That this conference, representing upwards of 100,000 co-operators in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, views with serious alarm the unwarranted increase in the prices of flour, bread, and coals, which increases press heavily on the resources of the working classes from whom has been drawn the great army now engaged in defending the interests of the nation. The conference earnestly requests His Majesty's Government to take prompt action to stop the exploitation of the people, and, if necessary, to deal with the matter as they dealt with the sugar supply, and so keep the prices of these commodities at the lowest possible level. And, further, directs that copies of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister and the members of Parliament for the counties.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

This fund is now in working order, and although contributing societies have not, as yet, taken much advantage of the facilities offered by the fund, it is interesting to note that societies are gradually recognising their responsibilities in this matter.

NEW SOCIETY.

We are pleased to report that a new society has started at Loswithiel (Cornwall), and gives promise of being very successful.

SOCIETIES IN LIQUIDATION.

We regret to report that two societies—St. Breward (Cornwall) and Princetown (Devon) have gone into liquidation. The latter society has had a very chequered career, despite all the local conditions necessary to success, and, in the case of the former society, the locality acted adversely to its progress, and is another example of the peculiar conditions under which the co-operative movement is carried on in the South-West. Its failure is, in a great measure, to be attributed to indulging in credit trading.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The demonstration of junior co-operators at the Bristol Dépôt of the Co-operative Wholesale Society was again a great success. The boys and girls assembled on the premises, inspected the products of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, partook of its hospitality, and were briefly addressed by Mr. H. J. Wilkins (Co-operative Wholesale Society) and Mr. Gilbert (Co-operative Union). A lantern lecture by one of the members of the Co-operative Wholesale Society staff was a fitting conclusion to the proceedings. The only regret is that outside the Bristol area very few societies can include their junior students in the demonstration.

We have regretfully to record the failure to organise salesmen's classes in the South-West. The solitary exception is that of Radstock, and this circumstance gives especial pleasure, as evidence of the enthusiasm of the manager of the Radstock Society.

The "Guides' Course" for women co-operators has again been held at Plymouth, Torquay, and Bristol.

Classes have been organised, as usual, under the auspices of the Central Education Committee, at Bristol, Exeter, and Plymouth.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The abnormal conditions of the country have been reflected in the position of many of our societies in the South-West. New problems have had to be solved, and new opportunities have presented themselves, and there is ample evidence of the fact that the movement has loomed large in the public mind by reason of its ability to cope with trade demands and its determination to prevent "panic prices" for the necessities of life.

It is also gratifying to note that there is a distinct revival of trade in many of our smaller societies, and although, against its will, the South-Western Board has been somewhat out of touch with the societies under Co-operative Wholesale Society supervision, we understand that the year's progress, in regard to these, has been satisfactory.

There have been a few attempts during the year to enlist sympathy and service of the Board in the registration of societies intended for the provision and sale of special commodities. In some there has been a partial recognition of the value of the co-operative principle, but the proposed basis of these presumably co-operative efforts have not commended themselves to the

judgment of the Board, and since suggested modification by the Board has not found acceptance on the part of the promoters, we have declined to assist.

There can, however, be no doubt that the ability of the movement to meet a national emergency has convinced many people that its principles and practices, to say the least, are worth examination.

In submitting the report we again have to record the fact that the most cordial relations have existed with the various organisations within the section, and, that although the work of the year has been carried out under exceptional difficulties, yet considerable progress has been made, and, as a result, the co-operative movement more firmly established in the South-West.

R. R. PRYNNE, Chairman.

W. J. GILBERT, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—BRISTOL AND SOMERSET.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Westbury (president).

„ Jos. Marks (treasurer).

„ C. A. Connolly (secretary).

Mrs. Found, Bristol.

Mr. W. H. Merrick, Bristol.

„ F. Mills, Bristol.

„ Owen Thomas, Beehive.

„ A. H. Atwell, Bridgwater.

„ W. Locke, Bruton.

„ T. W. Hill, Bristol Printers.

„ W. Plummer, Coleford.

„ F. Ackland, Frome.

„ H. G. Hooper, Frampton.

„ G. Brown, Oakhill.

„ W. Gillingham, Portishead.

Rev. G. A. Ramsay, Radstock.

Mr. G. Grist, Radstock.

„ J. Bryant, Radstock.

„ O. Brooks, Stoke.

„ W. Wilkins, Taunton.

„ A. Thatcher, Taunton.

Mr. C. Maynard, Templecombe.

„ R. G. Naish, Twerton.

„ H. E. Grace, Twerton.

„ A. V. Treasure, Weston.

„ A. Thorne, Yeovil.

„ H. Pierce, Yeovil.

„ H. Edwards, Twerton Educational.

„ W. J. Matthews, Bristol Educational.

„ W. Brown, Weston Educational.

„ F. S. Sibley, Bridgwater Educational.

Mrs. Harrison, Bedminster Guild.

„ Sennington, Central Guild.

„ Alvis, Bishopston Guild.

„ Atwell, Bridgwater Guild.

„ Westlake, Greenbank Guild.

„ Burman, Totterdown Guild.

Sectional Board Representative: Mr.

W. H. Watkins.

Sub-executive Committee: Mrs. Found, Rev. G. A. Ramsay, Messrs. A. H. Atwell, R. G. Naish, A. V. Treasure, and officers.

Representative on S.W.E.A.: Mr. W. Brown.

In reviewing the period that has elapsed since the issue of their last report, your committee feel that although they have not as an executive body

accomplished anything of a sensational character, they have, nevertheless, done all that was possible under the circumstances to consolidate the co-operators of Somerset into one strong and united body.

The abnormal conditions created by the outbreak of the European war, rendered propaganda not only difficult, but in many cases impossible; at the same time the committee is prepared to render the fullest possible assistance to any society desiring to undertake such work during the present winter.

Turning to the statistics of trade, &c., your committee wish it to be clearly understood that these figures were compiled before the great war began, and are therefore a reflex of the position of our societies under absolute normal conditions.

It will be noticed that we have only increased our membership by 299, viz., from 41,700 to 41,999. This does not mean that we have had fewer recruits to the co-operative ranks; probably the true explanation is that the new rule of the Co-operative Union, by which subscriptions are charged on actual membership, has induced secretaries to strike off their lapsed or otherwise defunct members, so that the figures given in this year's return may be said to represent a real live membership.

The most surprising feature of the return is the huge addition to share capital, which has increased from £296,398 to £314,695, or £18,297 more than last year. At the same time there has been a gratifying increase in our reserves, which now stand at £19,967.

Our sales, which have risen from £770,847 to £780,454, show a profit of £79,860, an increase of £9,918 over last year. A further cause for congratulation lies in the fact that our total assets exceed our liabilities by no less than £45,512.

What the immediate future may have in store for the commercial concerns of this country it is impossible to say, but the position of the Bristol and Somerset societies as a whole is one of solid strength, and one that with common prudence will not be easily undermined.

In the matter of educational work we have still an immense amount of leeway to make up, as the sum voted for this purpose, viz., £891, is proportionately smaller than last year, and although the present may not be an opportune moment to appeal for additional support for these funds, we venture to express the hope that the claims of co-operative education will receive a fair share of consideration at the hands of our members.

We have held four executive, and three sub-executive meetings, also four conferences.

At the first conference, held at Bristol in January, the report and balance sheet were dealt with, new rules discussed and adopted, and officers elected.

The second conference, held also at Bristol in February, was specially arranged to consider the proposed rules of the South-Western Co-operative Convalescent Fund. Messrs. A. Bullock and A. E. Threadgill gave full details of the suggested scheme, and the rules were adopted with certain minor amendments.

At the third conference, held at Frome in July, Mr. R. G. Naish opened a discussion on a paper by Mr. R. R. Prynn, entitled "An Argument for District Representation on the Sectional Board." The subject possessed peculiar interest, owing to the fact that at the last Sectional Board election all the seats had been secured by candidates hailing from the Devon and Cornwall Districts, thus leaving the Bristol and Somerset Districts unrepresented. During the discussion there were strong expressions of disapproval of any system which rendered it possible for one society to sweep the Board in this wholesale manner, and a resolution was unanimously carried, calling upon the Sectional Board to prepare and submit a scheme providing for district representation.

The fourth conference was held at Weston-super-Mare in October, and on this occasion the Rev. G. A. Ramsay delivered a most impressive address on "Co-operation and the War." The masterly manner in which the speaker dealt with his subject won the hearty approval of the meeting, and stamped the conference as one of the most instructive ever organised by the association.

We take this opportunity of thanking all societies for the support they have accorded the association during the past year, especially those under whose auspices our meetings have been held, and we also trust that the question of district representation will be thoroughly considered in every committee-room, so that our district may claim the degree of recognition to which we are justly entitled.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

	Receipts.	£	s.	d.		Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	31	3	9		By Conferences—				
" Subscriptions from Societies—					Bristol.....	14	7	5	
Bristol.....	38	15	2		Bristol.....	13	5	7	
Bridgwater.....	7	9	4		Frome.....	17	5	1	
Beehive.....	0	10	6		Weston.....	17	10		
Bruton.....	1	15	4		" Delegations —				
Coleford.....	1	19	8		Puriton.....	0	5	0	
Frome.....	3	9	0		Woolavington.....	0	2	6	
Frampton.....	2	11	8		Worle.....	0	5	8	
Oakhill.....	0	13	9		Bristol.....	0	5	2	
Portishead.....	1	14	0		Exeter.....	0	9	9	
Radstock.....	13	2	8		Woolavington.....	0	2	6	
Stoke.....	0	16	3		" Congress Delegate	5	0	6	
Taunton (15 months).....	11	6	4		" Special Propaganda (Frome)	2	10	0	
Templecombe.....	0	18	4		" Hire of Halls.....	2	10	9	
Twerton.....	9	15	4		" S.-W. E. Association Meetings	1	16	7	
Weston.....	2	16	4		" " Subscription	0	10	6	
Yeovil.....	8	13	0		" Secretary's remuneration.....	5	0	0	
Bristol Printers Ltd.	1	1	0		" Treasurer's remuneration.....	2	0	0	
" Educational Committees—					" Sub-executive Meetings.....	18	9	9	
Bristol.....	1	1	0		" Printing, Postages and Carriage..	10	12	2	
Bridgwater.....	1	1	0		" Refund Stoke Society.....	0	8	2	
Twerton.....	1	1	0		" Audit.....	1	6	5	
Weston.....	1	1	0		" Cash in Bank.....	49	8	8	
" Women's Guilds —					" Cash in Treasurer's hands.....	2	9	2	
Bristol Guilds.....	3	15	0						
Bridgwater Guilds.....	0	15	0		Audited—				
" Co-operative Union.....	18	9	9		W. H. MERRICK,				
" Trade Dividend.....	0	0	9		A. H. J. STROUD.				
" Bank Interest.....	0	5	6						
	£166	1	5				£166	1	5

C. A. CONNOLLY, Secretary.

NO. 2.—DEVON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. R. S. Mundy (chairman), Exeter.	Mr. M. Hoare, Buckfastleigh.
„ W. Stone (treasurer), Teignmouth.	„ W. H. Buckingham, Plymouth
„ E. Truscott (secretary), Plymouth.	Printers.
„ C. Medland, Okehampton.	„ R. Andrews, Newton Abbot.
„ T. Dunn, Exmouth.	„ J. Marks, Plymouth.

Sectional Board Representative: Mr. W. J. Gilbert.

Representative on the South-Western Educational Association :
Mr. R. Andrews.

We have much pleasure in presenting the Twenty-seventh Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the association, covering, as it does, one of the most momentous years in the history of this country, and no doubt one of exceptional interest to us as a co-operative movement. In presenting the numerical statement we have to remind you that the figures taken from the Congress reports refer to the previous year, but for the purpose of comparison we may see how far we are affected by the returns and take a more complete survey of the position :—

	Members.	Sales.	Capital.	Reserves.	Profits.
1914	60,891 ..	£1,120,450 ..	£633,278 ..	£111,302 ..	£144,309
1913	60,024 ..	£1,110,400 ..	£616,817 ..	£106,655 ..	£138,812
Increase	867	£10,050	£16,461	£4,647	£5,497

In accordance with our usual programme four conferences have been held during the year :—

Date.	Where held.	Subject Discussed.	Introduced by
1914.			
21st March.....	Brixham.....	Annual Report and Balance Sheet	District Secretary.
20th June	Okehampton..	Store Management	Mr. E. R. S. Mundy.
26th September.	Cullompton...	Co-operators and the Present Situation.	Mr. W. H. Watkins.
19th December..	Exeter.....	The Relationship of Agricultural and Distributive Co-operation.	Mr. F. S. Graff, A.O.S.

The annual meeting at Brixham on 21st March was well attended, the report and balance sheet giving rise to a very interesting discussion. Attention was called by a number of delegates that a more forward policy had not been initiated by the committee, and more propaganda work carried on in the district. The committee in their reply agreed somewhat with the speakers, but pointed out that part of the responsibility rested with the societies themselves, there being an apparent lack of effort on the part of several societies to extend their usefulness and trade. The balance sheet was heartily approved and the usual grants made to kindred associations.

On 20th June the second conference was held at Okehampton, one of the societies established during recent years, when Mr. E. R. S. Mundy presented for discussion his paper on "Store Management." Mr. Mundy gave us a most useful and practical paper. The discussion was taken up very keenly by a large number of delegates, and the question of Leakage, Auditing, Stock-taking, Management Expenses, and Credit Trading carefully defined.

The third conference, held at Cullompton on 26th September, came at the time when we were all shocked by the fact of the great war that was raging on the Continent, and Mr. W. H. Watkins (Sectional Board) presented a very timely and instructive paper on "Co-operation and the Present Situation." Mr. Watkins, in his paper, indicated certain principles by which members and committees might be guided in overcoming the difficulties caused by the war. The discussion was of a very helpful character, and was supplemented by Mr. H. J. Wilkins (Co-operative Wholesale Society), who made a statement of work done for the Government in connection with the situation, which gave much satisfaction. The following resolution, submitted to the meeting, was carried unanimously :—

That this conference of representatives of co-operative societies in the County of Devon, with an aggregate membership of upwards of 50,000, expresses its conviction that the proper maintenance of the wives, families, and dependants of all engaged in the service of the country during the war, and of those who may be killed or die in the service, is a national duty and responsibility, and calls upon the Government to make provision for such maintenance out of national funds. It further expresses its conviction that the money subscribed by the public for the relief of distress occasioned by the war is intended for the relief of civilians, and should, therefore, be expended for that purpose alone.

Following up on previous experiences, our fourth conference, held at Exeter on 19th December, and comprising the Devon Co-operative Conference Association, the Sectional Board, and kindred associations of Somerset and Cornwall, was a complete success. The subject for consideration, "The Relationship of Agricultural and Distributive Co-operation," was most timely. This was to have been introduced by Mr. Nugent Harris (Agricultural Organisation Society), but owing to a serious indisposition Mr. F. S. Graff acted as his substitute. Mr. E. R. S. Mundy took the chair, a letter having been received from Sir Thomas Acland regretting his inability to occupy the position. The consideration of the question was most interesting and instructive, Mr. Graff raising many points for discussion, which were heartily taken up by the delegates. The following resolution, submitted by Mr. C. W. Uglow (Sectional Board) was carried unanimously :—

This conference of agricultural and distributive co-operative societies and other co-operative organisations is in favour of the closest possible relationships being established between agricultural and distributive co-operative societies, and expresses the conviction

that such relationships will prove beneficial to both classes of societies and assist in the further application of co-operative principles to agriculture and industry.

The committee have held ten meetings during the year and arranged interviews with the committees of several societies and assisted in many ways. We have also had submitted from the section the question of district representation of the South-Western Sectional Board. This question has been before the association some time, it being introduced first by Mr. R. R. Prynn at a conference held at Torrington on 22nd June, 1912. After a good discussion it was agreed that no good purpose would be served by an alteration in the present system of voting. Your committee still agree with this decision. We feel, however, very strongly on this matter, and think the time is long overdue when there ought to be an addition to the number of the members of the Board. We ask your opinion and approval upon the following resolution dealing with this matter, which we passed at a committee meeting held on 19th December, 1914 :—

Resolved that, in the opinion of this committee, the time has arrived for an addition to the numbers of the Sectional Board, but owing to the preponderance of votes held by the Plymouth Society no useful purpose would be served by an alteration in the present system of voting.

The question of overlapping has also received our consideration, but upon this matter we are pleased to report that the evil does not appear to exist in the district.

In common with all other organisations, the outbreak of war has caused us much thought and consideration, the very idea of actual warfare between the democratic forces in Europe that made for progress and social reform being most distant from the ordinary mind. As a movement we have nothing to be ashamed of; it found us ready to continue the good work we had been doing for so many years, and in very many instances we became the masters of the situation, facing the extraordinary circumstances with tact and ability, and preventing to a very large extent any very serious disturbance to our trade. The report from the societies for the year gives evidence of continued loyalty to the movement and large increase in trade.

Our propaganda effort this year has been chiefly confined to building up the present societies and not to break up new ground, but owing to the war the programme has been very limited in character. A word or two appears to be wanted on this matter, and we desire to impress the members of the association on their responsibility, the present time offering so many opportunities for good and useful work. We feel that every society should have its boundaries well defined and every effort be taken to bring the aims and advantages of the movement before the people in each district. In this effort you may rest assured that the Sectional Board and this association will render every possible help.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand and bank last	19	14	6	By Conferences at—			
Report				Brixham	22	11	7
„ Subscriptions from—				Okehampton	25	8	1
Ashburton	1	2	7	Cullompton	24	3	2
Axminster	0	11	4	Exeter	18	7	9
Bideford	1	10	4	„ Committee Meetings	23	15	8
Bovey Tracey	2	10	11	„ Propaganda	25	7	11
Brixham	3	6	8	„ Delegate to Congress	6	16	9
Buckfastleigh	3	9	6	„ Grants to—			
Budleigh Salterton	0	8	0	Cornwall District Association	5	0	0
Chudleigh	0	14	2	Women's Guild	4	4	0
Colyton	0	15	6	South-Western Educational			
Cornwood	0	17	4	Association	2	2	0
Cullompton	0	15	8	Secretary	7	7	0
Dartmouth	2	0	0	Treasurer	4	4	0
Exeter	14	0	2	„ Printing, Postage, &c.	11	5	7
Exmouth	3	16	0	„ Bank Commission	0	3	11
Honiton	0	16	8	„ Cheque Book	0	2	6
Ilfracombe	0	15	8	„ Cash in Bank	57	0	7
Kingswear	0	10	9	„ „ Hand	9	3	6
Lee Moor	0	11	8				
Moretonhampstead	1	2	8				
Newton Abbot	7	2	0				
North Tawton	0	7	0				
Ottery St. Mary	0	10	5				
Okehampton	1	4	0				
Paignton	7	10	2				
Plymouth Mutual	141	0	7				
Plymouth Printers	0	16	3				
Plympton	2	2	4				
Sidmouth	2	10	0				
South Molton	1	16	6				
Tavistock	2	4	0				
Teignmouth	2	17	8				
Torquay	10	9	3				
Torrington	0	19	8				
„ Co-operative Union	5	0	0				
„ Bank Interest and Dividend	1	5	1				
	£247	4	0		£247	4	0

Anditor—
C. W. UGLOW.

E. TRUSCOTT, Secretary.

No. 3.—CORNWALL.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Jas. Tucker (chairman),	St. Austell.	Mr. A. Davey, Pensilva.
„ W. J. Lapthorn (vice-chairman),		„ J. Laundry, Menheniot.
Plymouth.		„ R. Pearce, Delabole.
„ J. R. Toms (treasurer and acting		„ S. Richards, St. Columb Road.
secretary), Liskeard.		„ R. R. Prynne, Darite.

Representative of the Sectional Board: Mr. C. W. Uglow.

Four conferences of the association have been held during the year, and these have been well attended.

The first conference was held at St. Columb Road on Saturday, 28th March, 1914, and being the annual meeting, Mr. J. Tucker, the late president, took the chair.

The annual report to Congress was read and adopted after a considerable discussion.

Mr. Wilkinson (St. Austell) thanked all societies that had contributed to the strike relief fund, and considered that such acts would be likely to gather the trade-unionists into the co-operative movement.

Mr. Wilkins (Co-operative Wholesale Society) considered that all trade-unionists should be co-operators. He referred to the £65,000 worth of goods supplied to the Dublin distress fund and to the banking facilities offered by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Reports were given by the secretary and others of the progress of the convalescent fund. The question of carriage of goods was again raised, and it was resolved that the Co-operative Wholesale Society be requested to consider the practicability of paying the carriage on all goods on the lines of the drapery and boot departments. The result of the voting left the committee unchanged.

The second conference was held at Darite, which is near the Cheesewring and Caradon Hills. After an enjoyable drive, the delegates were welcomed by Mr. R. R. Prynne, secretary of the local society, who gave a short history of co-operation in that district. Mr. Mundy (Exeter) read his paper on "Store Management"; a good discussion followed, which elicited many valuable points. The conference was well attended, which shows that societies appreciate the holding of conferences in these remote districts in the summer.

The third conference was held at Camborne, 10th October, Mr. Jopling (president of the local society) in the chair, who welcomed the delegates to their first conference in that district, and briefly outlined the effect the war has had on the Camborne Society. Mr. Uglow read a paper, prepared by Mr. W. H. Watkins, on "Co-operators and the Present Situation." It seemed as though the war had cast a gloom over the meeting, the discussion being very limited, and the conference was not considered to be a success. The delegates expressed their sympathy with Mr. Tucker (chairman of the association) in his illness, and a telegram was sent to him from the meeting to that effect.

The fourth conference was held at Bodmin, the president of the local society in the chair. Mr. R. Pearce (Delabole) read his paper on "Co-operation and other Forces," a considerable discussion followed. The three resolutions submitted to the district by the United Board were considered, but owing to the limited time it was resolved that they be again submitted to the delegates at the annual meeting.

The executive has held four meetings during the year in which much routine work has been done. Endeavours have again been made to get in touch with the agricultural societies of the county, but without success. Some amount of propaganda work has been done at Camborne, St. Breward, St. Gennys, and Lostwithiel, but owing to the death of our president, Mr. James Tucker, and the removal of our secretary, Mr. R. R. Prynne, to the post of head organiser of the Fisheries Organisation Society, there has not been so much done in that direction as otherwise would have been.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. G. Naish (chairman), Twerton, Bath.	Mr. Webber, Paignton.
„ W. Page (hon. treasurer), Weston- super-Mare.	„ A. G. Maunder, Exeter.
„ W. White (hon. secretary), Torquay.	„ W. H. Chapman, Exmouth.
	„ T. J. Davis, Plymouth.
	Mrs. Brown, Bristol.

Representative of the Sectional Board : Mr. H. J. Drake.

Representative of the Devon Conference Association : Mr. R. Andrews.

Representative of the Bristol and Somerset Conference Association :
Mr. W. Brown.

During the year nothing exceptional can be reported. There is every reason, however, to think that a keener interest in educational matters was being shown in the movement, and but for the war (in the early stages) it is believed that substantial progress would have been recorded in the section in an educational sense.

The first conference was held at Bristol, when a discussion took place on a motion introduced by Mr. Naish respecting educational bodies being represented on the Central Education Committee in the same sense as the other members, and suggesting otherwise a separate organisation for educational bodies with a Congress of its own. There was a keen discussion and opinions differed.

The conference held at Exeter was most successful, when Prof. Hall's paper, "The Co-ordination and Extension of Co-operative Education and the part of the College therein" was read and a resolution passed approving of the same. There was a good attendance, and the discussion was of a high order.

The annual meeting at Exmouth was well attended, and the delegates followed the report with attention and the various items were well discussed.

Appeals were sent to societies not affiliated with the object of their being affiliated, and to societies not yet doing so the advisability of setting aside 2½ per cent of the profits for educational purposes.

Guides classes for women co-operators were formed in the section at Bristol and Plymouth, whilst a summer school for two days was held at Torquay. All these new efforts to assist the women co-operators, undertaken jointly by the Central Education Committee and the Women's Guild, were very successful.

We have been represented at the important conferences held in the section, and the association is indebted to the Devon Conference Association and the Bristol and Somerset Association for financial aid.

R. G. NAISH, Chairman.

W. WHITE, Hon. Secretary.

(8) WESTERN SECTION.

Eleven meetings of the Board have been held since last Congress. The attendances of members are as follows:—

	* Present.	Absent.
Mr. E. R. Wood	11	0
Mr. W. H. Bryant	11	0
Mr. J. Rhys Davies	11	0
Mr. R. R. Chappell	11	0
Mr. L. W. Richards	3	1*
Mr. Dd. Evans	11	0
Mr. Dd. Williams	6	1†

* Illness. † Attending Local Government enquiry at Swansea.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting:—

Chairman : Mr. E. R. Wood. *Treasurer* : Mr. W. H. Bryant.

Secretary : Mr. J. Rhys Davies.

Representatives to the—

United Board Mr. W. H. Bryant.

Central Education Committee Mr. Dd. Evans.

District Associations' Executives—

Gloucester and Hereford..... Mr. E. R. Wood.

Monmouth, Brecon, and East Glamorgan.. Mr. R. R. Chappell.

Mid-Glamorgan Mr. J. Rhys Davies.

West Wales..... Mr. L. W. Richards.

Convalescent Fund Committee—Messrs. W. H. Bryant and J. Rhys Davies.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of one of the members of the Board, Mr. L. W. Richards. Mr. Richards was first elected on the Board in the year 1909. For many years previous he had been a most energetic member of the Blaina Society, and when Mr. John Price, the chairman of the Board, died in 1909, the Blaina Society nominated Mr. Richards for a seat on the Western Sectional Board. As already stated, he was elected in 1909, and for five and a half years rendered most valuable service to the co-operative movement. His readiness to make any sacrifice to attend a co-operative meeting, his keen sense of humour, and his life connection with labour movements all combined to make him a most useful member of the Board. The vacancy was filled, in accordance with Rule 31 (1), by Mr. Dd. Williams, J.P., Swansea.

At the close of the Board meeting, held on 4th July, 1914, the annual conference between the officials of the District Associations and the members of the Board was held. Dates and subjects of conferences were arranged, special attention being given to amalgamation and overlapping, minimum wage campaign, and propaganda work. The District Associations have carried out useful and energetic work during the year, but we trust that greater work will yet be done in the future. We hope that the relationships between the Board and the District Associations, cordial as they have been in the past, will be not only maintained, but that steps will be taken to make the connection still closer and fruitful in good service.

PROPAGANDA.

In addition to the lectures and propagandist meetings arranged by the District Associations, the following towns have been visited and canvassed by Mr. E. L. Griffiths, the propagandist agent :—Machynlleth, Llandrindod Wells, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, and Porthcawl. As a result of these and other efforts, we are glad to report that new societies have been formed at Aberystwyth, Whitland, and Seven Sisters. A new society is about to be registered at Carmarthen, and active steps are being taken to open a co-operative store at Porthcawl. It will be noted that three of these new centres are situated in West Wales, which has been until now a desert as regards industrial co-operation. Cardiganshire has now a distributive society at Aberystwyth, thus leaving Radnorshire as the only county in Wales without a distributive co-operative society. We trust that Radnorshire will be soon tired of its isolation, and will link itself with the sister counties in this movement.

The newly-formed societies, we believe, all contain elements that make for much success. We confidently hope that prosperity awaits them, and that they will be the torchbearers of co-operation to other populous centres.

Another centre ripe for a co-operative society is Felinfoel, but our friends there have wisely decided to link themselves with the society at Llanelly. Had the circumstances of the country been normal a branch would undoubtedly have been established ere now.

AMALGAMATION AND OVERLAPPING.

During the year two societies, which were unfortunately in a weak position, have been taken over by stronger neighbours—Ystalyfera Modern Society by Alltwen, and Ynyshir and Wattstown by Mid Rhondda. The result in these districts will undoubtedly be the strengthening and spreading of the principles of co-operation. Three other co-operative societies in contiguous districts in Swansea Valley are moving in the direction of amalgamation. We trust that ultimately there will be one strong society in this populous valley. We are also, not without hope, that the three societies situated in the borough of Swansea will join hands in the near future, thus establishing a society worthy of the importance of the town.

The dispute between Ynysybwl and Cwmbach societies has been amicably settled by the fixing of a boundary line. The question as to who should establish a branch at Hirwaun has been solved in favour of Trecynon. We cannot refrain from noting the splendid spirit shown by Aberdare Society in this matter. A praiseworthy effort has been made to establish a more cordial feeling between Aberysychan, Blaenavon, and Garndiffaith societies by the establishment of a Joint Board. The object of the Board was to agree upon a uniform system of working, developing gradually, to a uniform dividend, and thus preparing the way to a successful union of the three societies. Many meetings have been held, and much good has been accomplished. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, a serious hitch has occurred, and we fear that much of what has been secured will be lost unless the difficulty can be solved. It is to be hoped that a more vivid realisation of what co-operation means will lead to a solution of this difficult problem.

CONFERENCES.

During the past year four conferences have been held. The first was held at Barry on 29th August, and dealt with the subject of "Education." Mr. E. R. Wood led the discussion, in which a large number of representatives took a keen interest.

The second conference was held at Swansea, on 28th November, 1914. Thirty-nine societies were represented by more than 100 delegates. Mr. W. H. Brown's paper on "The Case for Co-operation in Peace and in War" was read by Mr. W. H. Bryant. A very interesting and fruitful discussion followed. This was one of the most successful conferences ever held in the section, both as regards attendance and discussion.

The third conference, held at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Depot at Cardiff, on 14th January, 1915, was arranged jointly by the Co-operative Secretaries' Association and the Sectional Board. Mr. R. R. Chappell presided, and Mr. Varley (Lancaster) read his paper on "Co-operative Finance and the War." Thirty-seven secretaries and 21 committee-men represented 38 societies. Many questions, such as withdrawable shares, amount of stock to be held, and depreciation were dealt with in the course of discussion. The presence of Mr. T. Horrocks (Assistant Secretary of the Co-operative Union) lent additional interest to this most instructive conference. Many requests have been made that this Secretaries' Conference should be held annually.

The fourth conference met at Newport, on 27th March, 1915, and was presided over by Mr. E. R. Wood. Twenty-seven societies were represented at the conference by 50 delegates. The subject for discussion was "The Central Board and the Grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild," based on Mr. G. Goodenough's paper, which was read by Mr. Dd. Evans. As could be naturally expected, the paper led to a very lively debate. A vote was taken at the close of the discussion, when the action of the Central Board was supported by 31 votes against 9:

EDUCATION.

In the report for 1914 it was stated that "there is plenty of room for better and more efforts in this direction." We regret to report that the "room" is still unoccupied. There is no subject that is spoken about so much as education. We are repeatedly told that the soul of co-operation is enlightenment and education, but we seem to do very little to change our talk into practice. Some years ago we brought an Educational Committees' Association into existence in the hope that it would lead to a greater interest in this subject. Unfortunately, in spite of every effort, the association has not received the support which it was entitled to expect from the societies, with the result that the association is now in a state of "suspended animation." We appeal to the management committees in this section not to neglect this important side of co-operation. In the world of political and social reform the motto is to "agitate, agitate, agitate," and we venture to assert that the only way to secure a great co-operative success is to "educate, educate, educate."

Seven centres have met for the subject of "Co-operative Book-keeping" at Cwmbach, Dowlais, Gloucester, Ton, Ynysybwl, Blaenavon, and Aberdare, and 160 students were enrolled. "Co-operation" has been taught to 54 students at Cwmbach, Dowlais, and Ynysybwl, whilst 11 students met at Cwmbach to study "Industrial History." Besides these, two classes for salesmen have met at Aberdare and Cwmbach, where about 50 students met. Thus in this section, containing over a million co-operators, no more than 300 students have attended educational classes, which works out at .03 per cent. Surely this record is not worthy of the section. We are not in a position to ascertain the number attending children's classes.

May we further venture to suggest to management committees to encourage the study of co-operation by giving promotion to those who have obtained certificates in co-operative examinations.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

The first meeting of the Convalescent Fund Committee was held on 16th May, 1914. Forty-nine societies have joined the fund, which includes 72 per cent of the total membership of the societies in the section. The total income during the year was £715. 1s. 10d. (including £500 from the Co-operative Wholesale Society Jubilee gift), and the total expenditure was £51. 10s. 9d., leaving a balance of £663. 11s. 1d. The number of cases dealt with were 11. We are glad that so many of the societies have joined, and we feel sure, now that the fund has been well established, that there will be an immediate response on the part of those societies that have not yet formed part of the fund, the secretary of which is Mr. D. H. Williams, 124, Moorland Road, Splotlands, Cardiff.

CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

Owing to the unusual circumstances which have arisen since last August there has been no meeting of the Choral Association. We trust that more

favourable conditions may soon arise, when the annual festival will take its place among the co-operative activities of the section.

GENERAL.

During the year the Sectional Board has taken part with the Midland and North-Western Sectional Boards in resuscitating the Mid Wales and Shropshire District Association. We believe this association will be the means of reviving interest in co-operative work in a district where, owing to difficulties of railway communication, it has not been easy to keep in touch with the general work. The association will be under the control largely of the Midland Sectional Board.

In spite of the difficult circumstances under which we have laboured for six months most of the societies have increased in membership and in volume of trade. Some of the societies have experienced difficulties owing to local industrial conditions, but, on the whole, we can look back with some satisfaction on the work done during the past year, and with courageous hope press forward to greater success in the future.

In conclusion, we thank the district executives who have laboured so well, the societies which have heartily welcomed and entertained the Board and Sectional Conferences, and all societies throughout the section for their faithfulness during the past twelve months.

E. R. WOOD, Chairman.

J. RHYS DAVIES, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Blackwell (chairman), Gloucester.	Mr. A. B. Beverstock, Bream.
„ G. Gooding (treasurer), Hereford.	„ A. E. Price, Stroud.
„ R. R. Chappell (sec.), Gloucester.	„ M. Perkins, Cinderford.
„ E. R. Wood, Western Section.	„ C. Allen, Kemble.
„ E. Smith, Cainscross.	„ R. Organ, Pillowell.

It is with great pleasure we present for your approval the report and balance sheet of the association for the year 1914.

The past year will be remembered as the commencement of the greatest war the world has ever known. This has had great effect among the masses of this country, who find it difficult to obtain the necessities of life owing to the great increase of prices, and had it not been for the co-operative movement there is no doubt food would have been at famine prices. Co-operation has come to the rescue of the people in keeping down the cost as much as possible, and the societies in this district have played their part well in determining that the people should have goods at the lowest possible price.

Owing to the war it was suggested that we should suspend all conferences and meetings with the exception of those that would help to consolidate the societies under the trying circumstances, and we are pleased to say all the societies have come through the ordeal a credit to co-operation.

Propaganda meetings have been held at various places, and conferences held as usual.

All the societies show a great increase in trade and membership, and some have opened new branches and extended their premises.

Gloucester Society opened some fine shops in a new district at Newent (which is an agricultural town), and credit is due to the society for taking co-operation to those people in the district who have not been able to help themselves owing to the circumstances of low wages and other causes. .

Cainscross has built some new branch shops at Eastington, and is also building new premises at Stonehouse. Other societies are on the alert and making inquiries in new districts with a view to opening branches.

The various classes under the educational department of the Co-operative Union should be more encouraged. There are classes for juniors at Gloucester and Cheltenham, and the Young People's Circles at these places are a great success. One should be established in every society.

The first quarterly conference was held at Kemble, Mr. Blackwell in the chair. Mr. R. R. Chappell read his paper "Co-operation with other Forces," giving an outline of the commencement of the Co-operative Union and the work it has done, and also the duty of the Union to the forces that called it into existence to hold itself responsible for the consolidation of the movement. He outlined the position of the Union and the report to be submitted to the Congress at Dublin. The discussion was taken up by many delegates present,

which showed the great interest that has been aroused over this question, and they await the decision of Congress with the hope that some settlement will be arrived at.

The second conference was at Lydney, Mr. Blackwell in the chair. The paper for discussion was Mr. Hibbert's, viz., "The Co-operative Wholesale Society: Should Representation be based on Trade?" Mr. Chappell read the paper, which advocated a change in the method of voting at the Co-operative Wholesale Society meetings. In the discussion that followed most of the speakers were of the opinion that there should be such a change.

The third conference was held at Cinderford, Mr. Blackwell in the chair. The subject for discussion was "The Co-operative Insurance Society's Collective Scheme of Assurance," which was introduced by Mr. Leah (manager of the Co-operative Insurance Society Life Department), who gave an outline of the commencement of the scheme and the benefits it had conferred on those societies which had adopted it. An interesting discussion ensued, and many questions were asked, to which Mr. Leah replied, and the outcome of the conference is that Gloucester and Hereford societies have adopted the scheme.

The fourth conference was held at Stroud, Mr. Blackwell in the chair, when Mr. W. H. Brown's paper, "The Case for Co-operation in Peace and War" was introduced by Mr. A. E. Price (Stroud). The keenest interest was taken in the discussion by the various speakers, who admitted great praise was due to the co-operative movement for the way in which things had been managed during the crisis, and that it would require all the energy and foresight in the future, realising that members should encourage and give all the help possible to those in authority in their efforts to consolidate and strengthen the movement.

The fifth conference was held at Gloucester, Mr. Blackwell in the chair. This conference was called at the request of the Co-operative Union to discuss the important question of the "Fusion of the Forces." The societies had been asked to instruct their delegates how to vote on the three resolutions contained in the statement sent out by the Union, and the District Executive decided that the vote should be taken on the same voting power of societies at Congress. Mr. R. R. Chappell, as a member of the Co-operative Union, read the statement issued by the Union, which he supplemented. As was expected, a very interesting discussion ensued, and on a vote being taken resulted as follows:—Resolution No. 1: For, 3; against, 28. Resolution No. 2: For, 3; against, 28. Resolution No. 3: For, 31; against, none.

Propaganda meetings have been held in several districts during the year, and they have been very helpful and encouraging to the various societies.

Before our next report is published the societies in the Western Section will have to decide in which city or town the Congress for 1917 shall be held, as during that year Congress is due to be held in the section. Gloucester Society has decided to invite the Congress, as the last time it was held in this section Gloucester gave way for Cardiff and Newport, Gloucester therefore has

strong claims this time. The Executive Committee hope that all societies will do their best to get Congress for once at this end of the section.

At all the places where conferences and meetings have been held we have received most generous entertainment by the societies, to whom we accord our hearty thanks.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward from 1913	6	7 5	By Conferences	24	2 6
„ Subscriptions from Societies, 1914	49	4 7	„ Committee Meetings	12	8 9
„ Co-operative Union Ltd.	16	14 2	„ Public Meetings	10	4 8
			„ Printing	2	7 0
			„ Postage	0	14 0
			„ Audit	0	5 0
			„ Secretary	2	0 0
			„ Treasurer	1	0 0
			„ Balance in hand	19	4 8
Audited—					
S. T. DAVIES.					
£72 6 2				£72 6 2	

J. BLACKWELL, Chairman.

R. R. CHAPPELL, Secretary.

NO. 2.—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN.

Executive Committee.

Coun. J. P. Davies (chairman), Nantyglo.	Mr. R. R. Chappell, Western Sectional Board.
„ J. Ll. Powell (vice-chairman), Penarth.	„ W. Thomas, Senghenydd.
Mr. J. Cowling, J.P. (treasurer), Newport.	„ Hy. Watkins, Mountain Ash.
„ J. Evans, A.C. (secretary), Tredegar.	„ S. Godfrey, Blaenavon.
	„ E. Davies, J.P., Newport.

The Executive Committee have much pleasure in presenting the annual report and balance sheet for the year 1914.

Again the association has to congratulate itself upon the work accomplished in the past twelve months. It is gratifying to note that our movement shows no sign of waning, but that it continues to deepen root throughout the district.

The association has been active in various problems during the year. This has been especially so in dealing—effectively, it is hoped—with the question of overlapping, a good deal of which has existed within the association. An Overlapping Board has been formed, and has set about its work in real earnest.

The association, too, has discussed at its conferences the all-important question of the “Fusion of Co-operation with other Forces.” This question has been before many of the recent Congresses, and has led to much discussion. A great diversity of opinion, however, is held as to whether the underlying principles of co-operation admit of any political propaganda. The attitude of the association is that the question is one of such vital importance that it should be decided by all the members of societies at their respective

quarterly meetings, or at any other meeting convened for the purpose, and, consequently, it has been suggested to the Co-operative Union that they should circularise the various societies so as to ascertain the real feelings of all members upon the question.

The committee are again pleased to state that the financial position of the association is all that can be desired, and beg to thank all societies for their continued support. The four conferences which have been held have been well attended, and useful and educative papers have been read. These have led to fruitful discussion. It is pleasing to note that all societies in the district report good progress in spite of the continuance of the war. Many societies, too, have opened new branches.

The first conference of the year was held on Saturday, 25th April, 1914, at the Co-operative Hall, Risca, under the auspices of the Blaina Society. This being the annual conference, the report and balance sheet for the year 1913 was read and discussed. Satisfaction was expressed at the great progress made by all the societies in the district, and the increased interest of all societies in the association. The following officers were elected for the year: President, Coun. J. P. Davies (Nantyglo); Treasurer, Mr. J. Cowling, J.P. (Newport); Secretary, Mr. J. Evans (Tredegar). The following were elected members of the Executive for Glamorganshire:—Councillor J. Ll. Powell (vice-president); Mr. W. Thomas (Senghenydd); Mr. Hy. Watkins (Mountain Ash). For Monmouthshire: Mr. S. Godfrey (Blaenavon) and Councillor Ed. Davies, J.P. (Newport).

At the last conference of the previous year Mr. H. L. Warren (Co-operative Wholesale Society Auditor) had read a paper on "Co-operation and Trade Unionism." Owing to the lack of time the discussion on the paper was held over to this conference. Mr. Warren again read his paper. The subject being one of great interest to all co-operators and trade-unionists it led to a very keen discussion. The paper has since been printed, and it is to be hoped that all societies have procured copies for distribution among their members.

The second conference was held on Saturday, 11th July, at Brecon, under the auspices of the newly-formed Brecon Society. A very encouraging report was given of the progress of the new society, and it was shown that the co-operative movement has every possibility of success in the rural districts as in the industrial centres. Mr. Protheroe (Aberdare) gave a detailed report of the last Congress, held at Dublin. His *résumé* of the proceedings was remarkably lucid and clear, which enabled the conference to realise the vast amount of work that was being done at the Congresses, and what a mighty movement co-operation is.

In the evening a successful public meeting was held under the presidency of the Rev. J. Davies (Rector of Aberyscir). The chairman expressed his great satisfaction that a society had been started at Brecon, though he regretted that, owing to the principle of trading for ready cash, adopted by the society, it had not at first the whole-hearted support of the people. But they had begun to learn that such a method of trading was far and away the

best done, by which they would not be bound down by the shackles of debt. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. S. Godfrey and W. H. Bryant (Blaenavon). Musical items intervened, and a very interesting evening was spent.

The third conference was held on Saturday, 10th October, at Aberaman, under the auspices of the Cwmbach Society. The marked feature of this conference was the able paper read by Mr. M. Lewis (Cwmbach Society) on "Co-operation and the War." He said the movement must follow the spirit which was to ensure the welfare of the workers of this country. It was estimated that there were in this country 12 million people directly or indirectly connected with the co-operative movement. Was it not, therefore, worth while, for the co-operative movement—a movement directly intended to save the souls and bodies of the workers from material bondage—to help directly in securing the best laws and conditions of life for them? A very keen discussion followed the reading of the paper. Though it was agreed co-operation could and should play an important part in establishing new conditions, yet the opinion was strongly expressed against the co-operative movement taking any part in politics. Mr. Lewis was warmly thanked for his paper.

In the evening a public meeting was held at the Co-operative Hall, under the presidency of Mr. T. Lloyd (president, Cwmbach Society). Addresses were delivered by Messrs. H. Godfrey (Blaenavon) and D. Williams (ex-Mayor of Swansea), which were interspersed with musical items.

The fourth conference was held on Saturday, 16th January, 1915, at the Co-operative Assembly Room, Bargoed, under the auspices of the New Tredegar Society. Every society of the section was represented, over 50 delegates being present. It was at this conference that the discussion took place upon the three resolutions on the "Fusion of Forces," which had been submitted by the Co-operative Union. All delegates came with the decision of their various committees, but, after much discussion, it was decided that they should not send the result of the voting at that conference to the Co-operative Union, but that, considering the question to be one of such importance as to need the decision of all members of societies, they should recommend the Union to again circularise all societies with that object. On a vote which was taken, however, there was a slight majority in favour of the third resolution.

In the evening a public meeting was held under the presidency of Councillor Walter Lewis, J.P. (president, New Tredegar Society). Excellent addresses on "The Aims of the Co-operative Movement" were delivered by Messrs. J. R. Davies (secretary, Western Sectional Board) and Coun. E. Davies, J.P. (Newport). Several musical items were also given.

During the year many Executive meetings were held, which arranged various matters dealing with the conferences.

It is with deep regret we have to report the death of Mr. Lewis Richards (member of the Western Sectional Board). He was an active and faithful member of our Executive, and his death leaves a vacancy which it will be

difficult to fill. In addition to his services on the Western Sectional Board and the Executive Committee of our association, he always found time to attend to the duties of the local branch, where his valuable experience was much appreciated.

In conclusion, the Executive wish to tender their best thanks to all those societies which have invited the association to hold their conferences at their places, and also for the kind hospitality they have afforded the delegates.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—December, 1913.	48	8	8	By Conferences	49	17	0
„ Societies' Contributions:—				„ Executive Meetings	16	3	1
Aberdare	3	13	9	„ Delegates' Expenses — Dublin			
Abergavenny	0	11	0	Congress	6	4	4
Blaenavon	4	6	0	„ Delegates visiting societies and			
Blaina	14	9	8	attending Western Section			
Brecon	0	7	6	Conferences	3	2	2
Cardiff	1	1	0	„ Overlapping Board Meetings	7	12	5
Chepstow	1	6	0	„ Printing, Stationery, Stamps, &c.	8	9	6
Cwmbach	12	18	5	„ Auditing Expenses	0	5	0
Cwmbran and Pontnewydd....	0	10	0	„ Secretary's Salary	5	0	0
Cwmtillery	3	0	3	„ Treasurer's Salary	3	0	0
Dowlais	2	17	4	„ Balance in hand	51	2	9
Ebbw Vale	3	18	0				
Garndiffaith	1	5	0				
Llanbradach	0	5	0				
Merthyr	0	14	0				
Newport	8	7	2				
New Tredegar	2	15	6				
Penarth	2	5	0				
Senghenydd	3	15	8				
Trecynon	1	0	10				
Tredegar	4	0	0				
Treharris	2	0	0				
Troedyrhiw	1	10	3				
Ynysybwl	3	6	0				
Co-op. Union—Western Section	22	4	3				
	£150	16	3		£150	16	3

Audited—
LEN. SQUIRE.

JOHN EVANS, Secretary.

No. 3.—WEST WALES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. D. Williams (chairman), Cwmbwrla.	Mr. M. H. Jones (auditor), Briton Ferry
„ Tom Stroud, (vice-chairman), Resol-	„ Thos. Harries, Pontardawe.
ven.	„ W. D. Owen, Lower Cwmtwrch.
„ Samuel Rees (treasurer), Swansea.	„ E. Hopkins, Pontardulais.
„ Samuel Jones (secretary), Skewen.	„ J. Eager, Burry Port.

Representative of the Western Sectional Board: Mr. David Williams, J.P., Swansea. [Mr. L. W. Richards (deceased).]

We have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the report and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1914.

Though the outbreak of the European War has greatly affected the

principal industries in the district, it is pleasing to note that the movement continues to make progress in this part of the section.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. L. W. Richards (Blaina) who, as representative of the Sectional Board upon the Executive Committee, rendered very valuable services to the association. Mr. David Williams, J.P. (Swansea) has been elected to fill the vacancy.

During the year only three conferences have been held as follows :—

Date.	Place.	Subject for Discussion.	Introduced by
21st March.	Skewen	The Best Means of Developing the Productive Side of the Movement. (Mr. Harrison's Paper.)	Mr. J. R. Davies, Cwmbywrla.
20th June..	Swansea	Payment of Expenses of Delegates to Divisional Meetings and Congress.	Miss A. Williams, Ystalyfera.
19th Dec. ..	Swansea	Co-operation with other Forces.	Mr. D. Williams, J.P., Swansea.

Though the district is very scattered, and the train service leaves much to be desired, making it difficult for delegates to get to and from home, we are pleased to record that the attendances at the conferences have been exceptionally good, and the interest shown in the deliberations upon the various matters submitted for discussion has proved that there is a general desire amongst co-operators to further the welfare of the movement.

The Executive Committee met as necessity arose to deal with matters demanding immediate attention. The association has also, by means of delegations from the Executive Committee, been instrumental during the year in bringing about additions to the membership of the Co-operative Union and the District Association.

At the annual meeting, held at Swansea on 20th June, the above-named officers and committee were elected. At this meeting also Mr. Evan Hopkins, who represented the association at the Dublin Congress, submitted his report, which was followed by a very interesting discussion in connection with some of the most important matters considered by Congress.

As in former years, the association has rendered assistance to societies in providing speakers for public meetings as follows :—

Date.	Place.	Speaker.
30th January....	Trimsaran—Lantern Lecture ..	Mr. J. Eager, Burry Port.
5th May	Birchgrove	Mr. D. Williams, J.P., Swansea.
	(Skewen Society's Branch)	
1st October	Trimsaran	Messrs. E. Hopkins and J. Eager.

On 7th March, a public meeting was held at Carmarthen with a view to stimulating efforts in the direction of the formation of a distributive store in that town, and addresses were delivered by Messrs. J. Eager (Burry Port), Samuel Rees (Swansea), and Samuel Jones (Skewen). Strong hopes are entertained that these efforts will bear fruition in the near future.

A new society has been formed at Seven Sisters, Neath, and registered under the name of Blaen Dulais. Being situated in a growing mining village its future development is confidently anticipated.

On 4th April, the Swansea Society celebrated the opening of its fifth branch, *i.e.*, Brynmill, a growing suburb of this ever-increasing industrial centre in South Wales. On this occasion Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P. (Norwich) attended, who, with Mr. David Williams, J.P. (ex-Mayor of Swansea), delivered very appropriate addresses.

A special conference was held at Swansea on 16th May to receive a paper prepared by Mr. H. L. Warren (Co-operative Wholesale Society, Cardiff) on "The Future of Co-operation in West Wales." Owing to the official connection of the writer of the paper with the societies in the district, a comparable table had been prepared, showing the progress made in the last decade, which is of special interest to all the societies in the West Wales district. The paper is now retailed in pamphlet form at a very nominal price, and committees of societies would do well to have a copy placed in the hands of every member.

Other educational work organised by the association has been limited to two series of five lectures, each by Mrs. K. Bruce Glazier, B.A. (Cheshire), the subject chosen being "Co-operation and the Empire." Needless to say, the subject matter was very opportune, and at all the meetings the addresses were well received by large audiences, and the impressions left upon both the speaker and hearers augurs well for the future of the district—from a co-operative point of view. These special lectures were as follows:—14th September, Cwmbwrla; 15th September, Briton Ferry; 16th September, Burry Port; 17th September, Pontardawe; 18th September, Gorseinon (Pontardulais Branch); 2nd November, Resolven; 3rd November, Craigcefnparc; 4th November, Lower Cwmtwrch; 5th November, Ammanford; 6th November, Swansea.

The following societies are now affiliated to the association:—Alltwen and Pontardawe, Ammanford, Briton Ferry, Burry Port, Craigcefnparc, Cwmbwrla, Cwmllynfell, Lower Cwmtwrch, Neath Abbey and Skewen, New Cwmgorse, Pontardulais, Resolven, Swansea, Swansea Printers, Swansea Branch Women's Guild, Treboeth, Trimsaran, Ystalyfera.

We would again tender our sincere thanks to societies for assistance in connection with the holding of conferences during the year.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1914 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance 31st December, 1913	23	19 7½	By Conferences	11	16 9
„ Contributions :—			„ Executive Meetings	7	19 4½
Swansea Printers, 1913-14	1	0 0	„ Expenses of Delegate to Congress	3	8 6
Neath Abbey and Skewen, 1913	2	5 0	„ Postages	2	5 0
Alltwn and Pontardawe.....	1	0 0	„ Printing and Stationery.....	7	11 0
Ystalyfera.....	0	10 10	„ Delegations	4	2 10½
Lower Cwmtwrch	0	12 11	„ Speakers at Public Meetings	17	5 0
Resolven	2	3 0	„ Use of Rooms	2	10 3
Briton Ferry.....	3	4 6	„ Rail Fares and Expenses <i>re</i> Audit	0	11 6
Swansea	6	5 0	„ Balance 31st December	8	1 8½
Pontardulais	1	5 0			
Swansea Women's Guild.....	0	10 6			
Trimsaran	0	9 9			
Craigcelfnparc	0	8 4			
Cwmlllynfell	1	0 5			
Co-operative Union	19	15 1			
Pamphlets sold	1	2 0			
	£65	11 11½		£65	11 11½

Audited—
M. H. JONES.

SAMUEL JONES, Secretary.

No. 4.—MID-GLAMORGAN.

Executive Committee.

Rev. J. F. Williams, (president), Glyncorrwg.	Mr. D. J. Jones (secretary), Cymmer, Port Talbot.
„ R. L. King (vice-president), Nanty- moel.	„ T. T. Millman, Maesteg.
„ M. L. Thomas (treasurer), Peny- graig.	„ John Jones, Ton.
	„ Thomas Quick, Taibach.
	„ Shad Williams, Pontycymmer.

During Congress year the following conferences have been held :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Blaengarw	The Means of Developing the Productive Side of the Movement.	Mr. J. Lines, Blaengarw.
Nantymoel	The Lack of Interest amongst Members of Co-operative Stores and Societies—Its Possibilities.	Mr. R. L. King, Nantymoel.
Taibach	The C.W.S.—Should Representation and Voting Power be based on Trade. (Mr. Hibbert's Paper).	Mr. Thomas Quick, Taibach.
Penygraig	The Importance of Developing the Social Side of Co-operation.	Mr. Griff. J. Thomas, Penygraig.

The progress made by societies during the year, notwithstanding that our country is in the throes of a terrible war, has been most satisfactory from a commercial aspect. Trade is booming, membership increasing, and profits good. The Mid-Rhondda Society has opened a magnificent building to meet the demands of an increased trade—the building is a credit to the movement, which lies in the heart of the Rhondda Valley. The Taibach Society has opened a drapery department to meet the demands of a very rapid growth of co-operation so near to Aberavon Town. This society in particular, amongst many others in the area of the association, is making rapid strides. If the members of this society could be convinced to amalgamate with the Aberavon Society, which is struggling under very difficult circumstances to keep the flag of co-operation flying over an industrial town, which is so congested with “multiple shops” and private traders, a deed would be accomplished for the enhancement of co-operation that would scarcely be eclipsed in any part of the British Isles. The Penygraig Society, Nantymoel Society, and others have had to open branch shops and extend their buildings to meet increased trade.

The whole of the conferences have been well attended, and their educational and practical value cannot be adequately measured. The discussions on the various papers indicated that the delegates attending conferences were devoted students of co-operation, from its ethical and practical standpoints.

The propaganda work for the year was very sound and inspiring. The Rev. J. Johnston (Bolton) toured the area of the association, and delivered appropriate addresses. The principles and the ideals of a noble movement were put so clearly to the people, which gives us faith to look for fruit growing forth from the seed that was sown.

The members of the Western Sectional Board have at all times given their labours whole-heartedly to advance co-operation within the area of the association.

We are also glad to report that there are book-keeping and children's classes connected with some societies, and many of the students have gained certificates.

The Executive Council would again like to emphasise that societies who have not up to date created educational committees, should do so as soon as possible. During this great European war societies cannot afford to be indifferent of its educational work. Other large “firms” are doing their uttermost during this crisis to push forward their commodities before the public's eye. We must co-operate with the Co-operative Wholesale Society by organising meetings to show the value of our own commodities, and their excellence from a standpoint of purity and wholesomeness. We must endeavour to arouse an apathetic democracy, that the only way it can be adequately fed and clothed is by collective efforts. Co-operators should be more active now than ever in their efforts to educate the people, since the Government has demonstrated in practice that the only way the people can be maintained is by co-operation on a national basis.

DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Sectional Board) said it was his privilege on behalf of the Cambridge and other societies responsible for sending it in, to move the following resolution :—

That this Congress, as a representative gathering of organised co-operative producers and consumers, expresses the opinion that serious and immediate consideration should be given to the question of securing further direct control of both raw materials and necessary sources of supply, and requests the Central Board to make the necessary arrangements for the discussion of the subject during the coming Congress year.

Before speaking to the resolution itself, he said he thought the thanks of the societies which had sent in the resolution were due to the Standing Orders Committee for giving them the opportunity of bringing before a Congress so representative as that one was, a subject which in their opinion was of vital importance, not only to them for the moment, but also for the future. The importance of the subject they were about to discuss could not be over-estimated; it was likely to have a large and distinct bearing on the future development of the co-operative movement. Further, he would like to remove, if it was necessary, any misapprehension regarding the spirit which underlay the resolution. All they desired to do was to focus co-operative opinion on a subject which, to their mind, was going to largely influence the development of co-operation. They were going to give all the credit that could be given to their organisations—to the Wholesale Society and the productive societies—for the magnificent service they had rendered to every distributive society since the commencement of the war. They were bound to recognise the fact, however, that their ability to assist the distributive societies extended only to the limits of their resources, and it was with the idea of developing those resources that they desired to draw attention to their proposal.

In their opinion it was quite necessary that still further steps should be taken in securing raw materials for productive work and to get closer down to other sources of supply. They had only to glance at the position at this moment to see how difficult it was now their resources were expended to safeguard their members against high prices in food and other necessities of life. The distributive societies might do their best to reduce profits, the Wholesale Society might keep its prices down to the lowest possible, yet behind it all they had the strong financial interests at work which dictated both to the producer and to the consumer the price at which the the raw material necessary for the production of these necessities of life

should come into their hands. If they turned to the figures in their report, they would see a large turnover done by their movement, and the very small quantity over which they had their own direct control. Had the action they now suggested been taken some years ago, the movement would have been in such a position to-day as to have influenced still more largely the price at which commodities should be sold, and would have made for itself a name which would have gone down to posterity and indeed for all time. It might be said that the conditions ruling to-day were other than normal, and that in all probability never again should they be faced with a similar condition of things. Whilst admitting this, they had to remember that even in times of peace the same interests which were now keeping up the price of commodities were ever at work, and they had often seen the price of goods rise, not through any real shortage, but due solely to the action of interested persons in so controlling the various markets as to enable them to create a fictitious shortage for the time, and thus render it possible for high prices to be charged to the consumers, whilst they themselves reaped a rich, although unholy, reward. Let them take one or two instances as examples. He suggested they consider flour, and what did they find? They found, as they were probably aware, that flour was to-day almost 100 per cent dearer than it was this time last year, and yet they got sufficient. This was proof in itself that, in spite of exorbitant charges, wheat was yet obtainable in sufficient quantities. Take the extra cost of flour alone to the average co-operative society, and he had in mind as an average society one using 150 sacks per week. He estimated that the total extra cost which need have been put on the price of flour obtaining previous to the war would not have exceeded 12s. 6d. per sack. That would have covered extra freightage, insurance, and other war charges. Taking the price of the same grade as costing 27s. 6d. per sack previous to the war, and adding 12s. 6d. thereto, the two together gave them 40s. per sack. The same grade of flour to-day stood, and had stood for some time, at round about 50s. per sack. For the last few months, therefore, they had been paying 10s. per sack over and above that which was absolutely necessary, which, on a turnover of 150 sacks per week, was £75 per week. Or, say for six months, a total amount of £1,950 would have been paid to the manipulators of their markets from one society alone. He did not think it would be any exaggeration to say that since the commencement of the war co-operative societies had paid considerably over one million pounds for flour alone in excess of what would have been a fair value. They must remember this, that every penny of this sum had passed from out of the pockets of the working classes into the pockets of those who would always spoliolate them as long as they were allowed to do so. Take the question of tea. They sold through the movement annually 30,000,000 lbs. They produced from their own estates round about a quarter million pounds. The tea trade was an ever-growing business, and whilst they were slowly adding to their sources of supply their trade was increasing in a far greater proportion. They were large dealers in boots and shoes, and there, again,

they must pay a tribute to the Wholesale Society and the productive societies for the way in which they had enabled them to meet the wants of their customers at prices which up to now had been very reasonable indeed. But just let them imagine for a moment what was going on. He thought he was right in saying that the cost of finished leather had advanced since the commencement of the war anything from 7d. to 9d. per pound, and yet the cost of raw hides had only increased from 1d. to 2d. They would see from this the manipulation which was going on between the acceptance of a raw hide from a co-operative butcher and its return to a co-operative society in the shape of finished leather. It was with the idea of bringing the man who wore boots into closer contact with the man who dealt with the hide from the beast that they brought their resolution forward. They wanted the movement to get down to the sources of supply so that it would be able to draw the raw materials which it needed direct from the land itself.

He also claimed that they should have forwarding agencies and buyers in all quarters of the globe, in order that they might get into touch with the necessities of life at first hand, and in that way give their members every possible advantage of co-operative production and co-operative distribution. He believed that with the conclusion of the present war a tremendous opening would be found, especially for co-operative productions. They would not be the only organisation looking for a portion of the benefits that would accrue from increased trade, and they must look to it that they, as producers and consumers, safeguarded their interests in the only possible direction, viz., in securing to themselves direct access to the abundance produced by nature, but unfortunately held in possession and doled out to them by those whose organisations and outlook were greater than their own.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Sectional Board) seconded the resolution. He said Mr. Fleming had told the Congress that after the terrible tragedy of the war ended a new civilisation would have to emerge from the present civilisation. It was absolutely necessary that if that new civilisation was to be built upon the lines of the greatest good for the greatest number it would have to be on entirely different lines to the civilisation now fast vanishing away. The co-operators of the country should put it forward as one of their ideals to see that the new civilisation should be built up in the best interests of the greatest masses of the people. They were told in another part of the report that a strong public sentiment alone would have effect on the powers that be. The Parliamentary Committee would have done a great deal more during the past six or eight months had they been backed up by that strong public sentiment. It was the duty of the United Board to see that when the time arrived for this new civilisation the public sentiment was ripe for expressing itself. He wanted Congress to ask the United Board to hold conferences and to hold meetings, and to ask societies to hold meetings to educate the public generally on questions like that raised by Mr. Charter, so that out of the chaos of the present a bright future might be built up for the people.

The CHAIRMAN : I think we are all agreed about this. We might save time by taking the vote now.

The resolution was then put, and was unanimously agreed to.

IS BONUS ON WAGES RIGHT ?

The paragraphs dealing with profit-sharing with employés, under the heads of distribution and production, were next considered.

Mr. J. SHARPLES ((Blackburn Industrial) pointed out that the Scottish Wholesale Society had discontinued the practice of paying bonus on wages—a practice that had existed for years. Since the conclusion of the statistics on which that report was based, the Co-operative Wholesale Society had taken action by declaring a bonus upon wages. This was producing the issue as to whether bonus on wages was right or wrong in principle. If right in principle, he thought we ought to recognise the principle, and recognise bonus as the right of the workers. If it was wrong in principle, the movement should oppose it. Societies were being faced with the demand for bonus ; the societies had to meet this demand. There ought to be unity, and societies ought to look to the Central Board, which carried on the work of the Congress between seasons, for guidance upon this matter, so that they might deal with it on an intelligent basis.

DISTRIBUTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE PROGRESS.

(See Report 1, page 82.)

Mr. E. O. GREENING (Agricultural and Horticultural Association) said he wanted to say a few words about the paragraphs in the report on distribution and production. The subject was one that was near to his heart. He need not remind men who were leaders of social progress in the movement that, although the movement had made great strides, they were still a long way from realising the high aspirations with which they originally started. When they started on their pilgrimage, they had the idea of linking localities together by stores, and that there should be productive works in which the members of the store would be employed and share in the benefits and profits. Unfortunately, when they got a certain distance on the road, they differed as to the paths they were to take with regard to their objects. They agreed, at least, that each should take its own way, and see what the results would be. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, therefore, and the copartnership movement adopted their own separate methods. The result had been that both had prospered exceedingly. But there was something in the way, although the copartnership societies to-day were paying profits beyond anything they had dreamed of in the early days.

In Leicester, however, they saw seven productive societies around the distributive society, and in that way the distributive store was strengthened in trade and members. Well, why should they not make further progress ? They wanted an arrangement similar to what obtained in America or Canada, where miners' claims were staked out. Why could not they come to some

arrangement in which the Wholesale Societies would say which were the productive operations they could see their way to accomplish? Why could they not come to some arrangement by which they could, by a combined effort, achieve the results they set out to do? Let them increase the productive bodies throughout the country, so that they could do all over the kingdom what was being done in Leicester.

THE VALUE OF PENNY BANKS.

(See Report 8, page 92.)

Mr. E. R. WOOD (Western Sectional Board), alluding to the paragraph dealing with penny banks, said they would notice that 779 societies had already organised their penny banks; this left out 611 societies which had no penny banks. He was sure that every one of the 779 societies would be unanimous in saying that the penny banks were of great benefit to the families of the members. He would therefore advise every society to establish a bank at once. They had been urged by the Government through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on account of the present crisis, to be economical in spending, so as to assist the finances of the country and bring the terrible war to a successful issue. He understood that private banks were making arrangements by which they could form penny banks. If outside banks were doing that, it was the duty of co-operators to do it. By establishing banks and enlarging the turnover of banks, they would be helping the country at present materially, whilst they would be securing the children for co-operative organisation and principle.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton) said that the last speaker had been telling them that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been inquiring about penny banks and the savings of the people. There seemed to have been a wrong impression created by the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and people were wondering how the principle would be brought into operation. He was hoping that the last speaker would have defined the matter more fully, so that they would have known what to do to spread the idea throughout the country. There seemed to be some impression abroad that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had an idea of getting people to save their money so that he could confiscate it. That was the impression, but he knew it was not correct. He wanted the Congress to understand that if anything of the kind was to be done in future, it would be only by asking the working classes to take their share in connection with the war by advancing money to the Government under proper counsel and control.

COLLECTIVE ASSURANCE.

(See Report 9, page 92.)

Mr. J. A. EDWARDS (City of Liverpool) protested against the paragraph in the report regarding collective assurance, to the effect that it was regrettable that some societies held aloof from the joint security and mutual help afforded by union with the Co-operative Insurance Society. It was an

unfair criticism of a society carrying on collective life assurance. There were societies showing their goods at the exhibition which conflicted with what the Co-operative Wholesale Society manufactured, yet there was nothing said about that. It was an open question as to whether it was regrettable or not. He belonged to a society undertaking this sort of work, but he did not think they had no right to carry it on. It was a well-known fact to the whole of the co-operative movement that the Toxteth and City of Liverpool societies combined in a law case about this matter and upheld their action.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the paragraph did not refer to the City of Liverpool or the other society. If they would refer to the report, they would find that there were 462 societies taking advantage of the collective assurance scheme out of 1,500. It was not intended in the slightest to apply the remarks to the two Liverpool societies.

JOURNALS OF THE MOVEMENT.

(See Report 10, page 94.)

Mr. H. D. NEATE (Keyworth) said it was pleasing to note that there had been an increase in the circulation of co-operative publications, but it was not nearly large enough. The average co-operator did not realise the advantage of reading and noting what other societies were doing. The *Co-operative News* was doing a splendid work nationally for the movement, and the *Wheatsheaf* and other local "Records" were keeping the members of the societies, which had localised it, in touch with their committees and the management, but from the report it appeared that there was only one district association that had found out the advantage of having a district "Record." He wanted to commend the district "Record" to the notice of district secretaries and executives as a splendid means of sustaining the interest in the work of the district association. He did so without fearing overlapping, or detracting from the usefulness of either the *Co-operative News*, which dealt with national questions, or the *Wheatsheaf*, which discussed purely local affairs. What these publications were to the nation and the local society, so a district "Record" could be, or should be, to the district. He saw no mention made of any international publication. Had the war brought the *Bulletin*, which used to be circulated, to its end, as it had unfortunately rendered the presence of foreign delegates impossible at that Congress?

The GENERAL SECRETARY replied to the effect that the *Bulletin* was still published, and was sent to societies which were members of the Alliance.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper Society) was in agreement that district "Records" would be a distinct advantage to the movement, but he wished to make an appeal on behalf of the *Co-operative News*. The *News* had only a circulation of about 80,000, which he thought was a disgrace to the co-operative movement.

Mr. J. JARMAN (Warrington) was against the idea of having sectional

"Records." He hoped they would not be very long before they had a monthly publication from the United Board of the Co-operative Union, which would be circulated throughout Great Britain and Ireland. They needed the whole of the movement more in touch with the work of the Co-operative Union. He realised what the *Wheatshaf* had done and was doing for the Wholesale Society, but there were so many new organisations coming into existence that it was necessary to have an official organ.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

See Report 19, page 100.)

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) moved the adoption of the report of the Central Education Committee. In spite of the war panic at the beginning, in spite of the economic uneasiness, and in spite of pressure of work that had fallen upon co-operative societies since the war began, most of their people had kept the business of educational classes going as usual. They expected a large falling off, whereas they only lost 21 classes out of 564, and only 1,900 students out of 22,094. Most of these classes and most of the students were in book-keeping classes, and they had turned their attention to other subjects, so that the loss was not really so great as it seemed to be. Special classes were being conducted with the help of the Women's Guild. For women they had no less than 21 classes in Britain—14 in England and seven in Scotland. They had 616 ladies who were struggling hard despite domestic troubles and war claims to learn the history of the movement so they could impart it to others. Then, too, the Co-operative College was on its feet. They must not think the building was like the glorious building at Oxford and Cambridge. They had a building at Manchester honoured by the name of Holyoake House in which, during the past year, they had held ten classes with 390 students. That was the first sprout of the Co-operative College. It would grow. They could teach people in buildings that were not mediæval. Their classes for the study of management were exceedingly expensive. They had an increase of students from 431 to 478, but it was taking a considerable sum of money to maintain those classes. The student, the society, and the co-operative commonwealth all benefited, and he thought the societies should pay their one-third of the cost. There was a slight increase in the number of apprentices that were being taught; but they only numbered 260 who were learning the technique of their trade. He hoped that next year they would have 2,600 young lads who would be trained to become the workers of the future. Their hope was that industry might reveal its own strength and accomplish its own salvation. Their aim was to provide it with captains of its own training and drawn from its own ranks. They would never win so long as they had to fetch in the outside expert. They would be nearer winning when they took their best from their own institution. He con-

cluded by appealing to delegates to wake up and do their part in the work of education.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper Society) formally seconded the adoption of the report.

Mr. W. H. MASON (City of Liverpool Society) agreed with the idea of encouraging employes to avail themselves of the classes, but dissented from the suggestion that employes should go to classes to secure increases in their wages. He was willing to give a man preferential treatment but did not believe, and hoped the committee would not suggest, that because a man passed an examination he should have an increase of wages.

On the paragraph dealing with men's guilds,

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) inquired what control the Education Committee had over the National Men's Guild, over the propaganda work carried on, or over the expenditure of the grant made from the funds. There was an old Eastern saying that "The beginnings of mischief were no greater than a midge's wing." He wanted to know if there was a midge's wing in connection with this new departure.

Mr. J. C. KENWORTHY (Stocksbridge) said he wished to give Mr. Rae and his committee a word of encouragement. The secretaries of the movement felt that the education provided was helping the men in the work they were doing; they wished the committee God-speed; and they thought the movement should not discourage them in any way.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial) inquired as to the prospects of obtaining Government grants for the Co-operative College. He also wished to know if the Co-operative College would take up work of the character that was being done in the University joint tutorial classes, or if its work was to be simply of a co-operative character. If it was to be co-operative work, he wished to know if the college proposed to send out teachers to the local classes, or would the students be asked to reside in the college.

Mr. C. BREARLEY (Longwood) pointed out that in the report on the University joint tutorial classes there were the names of several universities and the names of representatives of the co-operative education authority on the joint committees. He did not see Ruskin College mentioned there, and he wished to know if the Central Committee were allied to that college, and who were the representatives of the committee.

Mr. T. MAVIR (Cleator Moor) directed special attention to the reference made in the report to the wonderful organisation the movement had shown during the war. The report also directed attention to the apathy of co-operators while these co-operators were engaged in war, with extortion, exploitation, and bad conditions of labour. One of the most striking features of the Dublin Congress was Mr. Fleming's remarks as to the apathy of co-operators. He hoped the delegates would try to rouse the interests of the co-operators they represented, so that they might be ready for the time when the carnage of war was ended.

Mr. T. MASON (Uppertown) was going on to speak of the land question, but the subject was held to be out of order.

A Delegate sought information as to the relations between the committee and the universities.

Mr. RAE, replying to the last speaker, said the various universities were waking up to the fact that there was a field for them among the working classes, and they were seeking support from trade unions and co-operative societies—financial, moral, and propaganda. They were establishing classes largely in co-operation with the Workers' Educational Association. The universities and the Education Committee thought they would know one another better if the Education Committee joined with them. They invited the Education Committee to join with them; the committee agreed, and the thing worked out at present to the advantage of both. He had to tell Mr. Brearley that Mr. C. E. Wood, the secretary of the Education Committee, along with Mr. J. S. Armitage, were on the executive committee of Ruskin College. His friend from Uppertown wished to drag in another question; but it was not germane to the subject. He thanked Mr. Kenworthy for his encouragement and appreciation. Replying to Mr. Sharples, he said he believed they could in a way conform to the niceties that followed the inclusion of red tape. They had carefully considered the question of grants in connection with the Summer School last year; they had got to know the lines along which it might be carried and the amount they might earn. The amount was small and to conform was awkward, and they decided to let the grant go until the Government could trust them a little better. Replying to Mr. Goodenough, he said the committee had a control—he did not like to call it that—the committee had a considerable influence over the destinies of the Men's Guild. The secretary of the Education Committee was joint secretary of the guild, and the chairman of the Education Committee was the honorary president, and was always welcome at the meetings when he went to them. The guild had consulted the Education Committee, which advised them as to their programme: and they acted upon that advice right loyally. He referred to the paragraph in which the societies were asked to treat the student who had made himself a more capable employé to more generosity than they did when he was less capable. He would like to see Liverpool follow Birmingham—a society that for three or four years had rewarded, in its own interests, the successful students. If an employé rendered himself more capable, whose was the benefit? If he rendered himself more capable they ought not to think that he was asking something outrageous if he asked for recognition of his ability. He did not want to ask a society to put a successful student straightway in charge of a branch: but he did ask that when occasion offered the society would give more favourable consideration to the man who showed that he had some desire to lift himself. In these circumstances they always found themselves, of course, up against the old, tried, and faithful servant. He had no word to say against the old, tried, and faithful servant when correctly

described ; but he wanted the delegates to go home and do their duty like good leaders, and prepare the young people to take their places as leaders when we had passed away.

The Education Committee's report was then adopted.

JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE.

(See Report 20, page 113.)

Mr. T. E. SHOTTON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) moved the adoption of the Joint Propaganda Committee's report. He pointed out that the policy of the committee had been more directly devoted to the helping of small societies in difficulties and to getting them linked up with larger brothers in their neighbourhood. They were doing very earnest work on these lines, and he asked the delegates to adopt their report.

Mr. G. A. ARNOLD (Southwell) suggested that the committee should appoint an expert organiser or adviser to go to the help of small societies. Some of these small societies were in isolated districts, and it was impossible to get societies that could take them over. There were several societies in Great Britain where the committees were struggling alone. If there was an organising agent who thoroughly knew the co-operative business, he could visit these societies and put them up to a good many ideas. Trade-unionists were waking up to the need of organising ; and co-operators should recognise the need for this, too. The multiple shops were crushing out small societies. Fifteen societies had ceased to exist. Some of these cases were due to amalgamation ; but we should, he thought, organise the whole country side. In his own district the district committee had come in and had added from 400 to 500 members, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society was selling co-operative productions where people were formerly dealing with private traders.

The CHAIRMAN explained that there was a propagandist agent, whom the Board were willing to send anywhere that his services would be of value, and they were prepared to find other propagandists to help societies. The Propaganda Committee were seeking out places where they could extend the movement ; they were holding meetings in villages ; and they were seeking, in every way, to encourage big societies to meet and assist those small societies. He approved of amalgamation, and he pointed out that many of the smaller societies were having to amalgamate with larger societies.

Mr. J. PRYOR (Sidmouth) said he knew from experience that people wanted looking after, and they had got to force co-operation upon them. They had got voluntary workers who would be willing to do the work if it were properly put before them. The fault often lay with societies themselves, who got in a very bad way before they let anybody know anything about it.

Mr. G. FELTHAM (Southampton) remarked that the idea of their friend who spoke first was not so much that of getting an organiser as an expert. The propagandist to-day had become a business man. He could not

conceive a great multiple company advertising for a propagandist; that would be the last thought they would have in their minds. They would rather advertise for a man who had had experience, and who had proved himself to be an expert in the branches of business he was wanted for. What they wanted in the co-operative movement were business experts who could be consulted from time to time in order that they could tell them what was necessary to do, and the best way to do it, so that they could hold their own in the work in which they were engaged.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Sectional Board) said that instead of having one man to do propaganda work, they needed, or could do with, ten or twelve. The Propaganda Committee were anxious to get organisers at any time if it could be shown that their services were needed and would be fully utilised. He, personally, felt that the time had come when an active, vigorous propaganda should be pursued throughout the country. The opportunity was present, and they wanted societies to take advantage of it and ask the Propaganda Committee not to appoint one propagandist, but as many as might be needed. They could have experts on anything. But all the expert advice that was needed could be obtained from the Co-operative Union; they could also get legal advice from the Union. There was an ample staff of advisers, who were also experts; therefore, if expert advice was required, or needed by any society, they could have it, and all that societies needed to-day was to use it to the fullest extent.

Mr. J. CARTER (Weymouth) said it was not correct to say small societies did not take advantage of the organisers through apathy or indifference. He suggested it was through ignorance. The societies did not know of the existence of these men, not because they did not want to, but because they got into a little hole-and-corner sort of place, and no one took any notice of them. When the mountain would not go to Mahomet, Mahomet went to the mountain. He suggested the Union should do the same.

Mr. A. W. CRITCHLEY (Soho) said the experience of his society had been against the engagement of experienced men. By experienced men, he meant those who had gone through a college course. He said his society tried to get a foothold in the Black Country some time ago, and sent out an organiser, who had to go amongst the people, and even to the back doors, where the women were at the wash tub. The organiser laid the foundation, and a branch store was opened, at which the trade at first was only £15 a week. Now, with the assistance of the Women's Guild, the society had a branch to be proud of.

Mr. J. DAVIDSON (Newport) said he thought most of the speakers had missed the point. They had forgotten they had the people to deal with, and it was his experience—not only in the co-operative movement, but also in the trade-union movement, that the great majority of their members had no ideals; they had only got appetites. When they had ideals, as well as appetites, they would not hear so much about the propagandist

agent. At his society when propaganda meetings were mentioned amongst the members, they generally asked, "When did it happen?" He held that the best way to organise the members was for each one interested in the co-operative movement to become a propagandist in his own circle. He made bold to say that if every intelligent man and woman would become a propagandist in his or her own circle, they would then hear less about paid organisers.

Mr. T. E. SHOTTON replied to the discussion. The matter was in their own hands. They had the Co-operative Union, which was ready to advise them; they had the services of technical men in the Co-operative Wholesale Society who were always ready to go to the aid of societies. They had only to ask for help and to have it.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

(See Report 21, page 115.)

Mr. R. HOLT (Co-operative Wholesale Society), in the absence of Mr. Tweddell, moved the adoption of the report of the committee. He would not take up much time because the delegates doubtless had read the report. Last year at Dublin they had a long and conflicting discussion on the Parliamentary Committee's report. This year the report contained nothing of a contentious character. It was a report—and he regretted to have to say it—of work unaccomplished. Circumstances had been absolutely against them. They started in earnest to deal with a number of important questions affecting the interests of the movement, but they had had to drop them on account of the deplorable and destructive war. The resolution moved by Mr. Charter was important. In the report, under the heading of the Coal Question, there was a reference to the experience of the Aberdeen Society. The rise in shipping freights had been enormous. The rise in freights raised the price of coal from 11s. to 14s. per ton. The Aberdeen Society had one vessel which was able to do the work with an increase of only 3d. per ton. He wanted them to think about that. Universal attention should be called to the matter. They should have it in their district conferences. It was no good talking about getting to the sources of supply until co-operators were really more in earnest in getting all the commodities they required from their own institution. They wanted a very large trade so that they could affect the markets of the commercial world. They could not do that unless they got the buyers and committees more in earnest and until they took a deeper interest in their own institution.

The resolution was seconded by several delegates in the body of the hall.

Mr. C. R. PALMER (New Swindon Industrial) said they were told by speakers on the platform that there were great difficulties before them. What was their duty? His opinion of their duty was that instead of "lobbying" they should send their Parliamentary Committee into the

House of Commons. That was the principle of co-operation as it appealed to him.

Mr. A. W. CRITCHLEY (Soho) stated that he did not notice the names of the Parliamentary Committee in the list of Members of Parliament, nor did he see in the report the results of any pleadings with members of the House of Commons; and not until they had their own representatives in the House of Commons, instead of being represented by members of other political parties, would they get the results desired in anything like reasonable time.

Mr. J. J. WORLEY (Leicester) asked whether the committee had considered the report of the Departmental Committee on Sickness Benefit Schemes under the Insurance Act. He wanted to know whether, in view of the startling evidence in Vol. I. intimately concerning the co-operative movement, they had made any representation to rebut, if possible, some of the statements contained in that evidence and to make any suggestions which might lead to the administration of co-operative interests under that Act in a more humane and considerate manner. With reference to the appointment of a Home Office Committee on Distributive Trades he would say that that opened up a highly important change vitally affecting their movement from a labour point of view. It was tantamount to industrial conscription. He wanted to know whether they had, as a result of their inquiries, come to any set policy as to the substitution of female labour for such male labour as might be sent to the colours as a result of the setting up of the committee. Had the principle of equal pay for equal work been settled? And, further, had the trade unions concerned been consulted in order to get at a policy acceptable to the movement and to the trade union interests.

Mr. T. BIRD (Ipswich) spoke with satisfaction of the assistance that the movement had been able to render to the people in various districts—even in “sleepy East Anglia”—during the present crisis. In his town they had made their influence felt, and the workers recognised that they could work more effectively when they joined forces. So successful had they been that they had been able to influence one of the relief committees of the town and had raised the maximum payment from 5s. per week to 16s. per week.

The CHAIRMAN: At this stage we might hear Mr. May.

Mr. H. J. MAY (secretary of the Joint Parliamentary Committee) said, with reference to the national relief, that he did not know whether the committee was being commended for its action in connection with representation on the relief committees or whether they were commending the general labour and working-class movement for the representation that had been secured. He explained that the members of the committee were not altogether satisfied with the results of their efforts in the direction of securing co-operative representation on local relief committees. At the beginning of the war they secured the hearty sympathy and cordial support of Mr. Herbert Samuel, who did everything he could to secure representation in any case they sub-

mitted to him. In some important towns—Manchester being one—the President of the Local Government Board had intervened more than once in their favour. A great demand was made nine months ago for these committees to be elected locally, and to be as democratic as possible. That took it out of the power of the President of the Local Government Board to enforce representation upon committees. He (Mr. May) wanted co-operators to realise that even in Manchester and Glasgow, and other cities and towns, it was impossible for the Parliamentary Committee, even with the support of the Minister concerned, to get past the local officials and busybodies who were against the co-operative movement, and who would not let the movement have a show. A word to the wise was sufficient, he thought, and if co-operators wanted something done they must look after municipal officials who were against them all the time. Upon another point there had been no resolution taken by the Parliamentary Committee, and he could not, therefore, speak on their behalf: but his experience in the War Emergency Committee led him to think that it was a rather serious thing that so much trade-union money and co-operative money had been subscribed to the National Relief Fund without any real hope of any satisfactory administration of it.

The question of the Departmental Committee on Sickness Benefit was not brought to the notice of the Parliamentary Committee. With regard to the Home Office Committee, referred to by Mr. Worley, Mr. May said the efforts that were being made were being made as an alternative to conscription. The Parliamentary Committee had not come to any decision as to the substitution of female labour. Some societies had adopted this already in order that men might be released to go to the front; and it was the duty of the movement to see that this female labour was properly organised. As to whether they were satisfied with the results of their lobbying, that was the best means they had at their disposal, at present in order to carry on what they had to do; but, in view of other questions that would arise, he did not think he could usefully discuss the point then.

THE JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

(See Report 22, page 124.)

Mr. W. LANDER (Co-operative Wholesale Society) moved the Joint Exhibitions Committee's report, and said that the report was simply a record of inactivity. They had done little or nothing during the term referred to; it had been undesirable to continue the exhibitions in consequence of the dislocation throughout the country caused by the terrible conflict that was going on. So far as the exhibitions were concerned, they looked upon them as the finest form of advertising and the best way of bringing their products before the notice of the people. The object of the exhibitions was one of the means towards the end of attaining that position which would enable them to command the market, and eventually go past the market to the growing of the raw material. Whilst the war was on

their work was prevented ; but the war need not prevent them being loyal. They did not need Members of Parliament to teach them how to buy goods from their own workshops. That was a personal matter. He had often had the opportunity of calling attention to the matter before, and he was getting tired of repeating that, besides being co-operators in name, they should be co-operators in practice. Talk about people being in the way of bringing cheap commodities to their people, when they were the people who were standing in their own way. He was at the opening of the Congress Exhibition, and he heard people pleading for co-operative trading ; at the same time he saw an exhibition there connected with a society that could give nearly £30,000 of trade to its own organisation, and it was not giving it. What was the use of having exhibitions if they were too stupid or too ignorant to understand that co-operation meant emancipation through the co-operative control of industry and the markets of the world ? That was the real work that would bring happiness to the people, yet they themselves were blocking the way. Where would they have been during the war but for the Co-operative Wholesale Society ? Whilst the war was on he wanted them to be loyal and united to an extent of being able to stop wars from interfering with progress. Their object was the attainment of the highest ideals in controlling the production and distribution of the goods necessary to human life for the benefit of the people who found the labour and the capital too.

The report was seconded, and adopted unanimously.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(See Report 23, page 125.)

Mr. G. HAYHURST said the Defence Committee was the last committee to be called upon to present its report. Why its report was put at the end of the book he did not know. However, it was his privilege to move the adoption of the Defence Committee's report. They had had nothing to do, and he thought he could say they had done it fairly well. It was bad for the movement when this committee was not busy. It seemed somewhat contradictory to say that ; and when the committee was busy it was also a bad job for the movement. They never seemed to get on with the progress of the movement in the way they ought to until they were persecuted, and then they wakened up to what Mr. Lander had just been pleading for. The committee was formed for defence, not defiance ; and with the help of the movement they would fear no outside foes, let them come whence they may.

There was no discussion, and the report was unanimously agreed to.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.

(See Report 25, page 126.)

It was reported that the following nominations had been made by the sectional boards of persons to be appointed as honorary members of the

Central Board for the coming year. They had been approved by the United Board, and the Chairman asked Congress to confirm their appointment:—Midland Section: Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse. Northern Section: Messrs. H. R. Bailey, W. Crooks, and T. Rule. North-Western Section: Messrs. C. J. Beckett and G. Wheelhouse. Scottish Section: Messrs. D. H. Gerrard and A. Meldrum. Southern Section: Messrs. A. H. D. Aeland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, H. J. May, and H. H. Vivian. South-Western Section: Messrs. A. Bullock, T. Gidley, R. R. Pryne, and C. Vaughan. The appointments were agreed to.

SECTIONAL REPORTS.

(See Report 27, page 127.)

Mr. H. D. NEATE (Keyworth) was pleased with the manner in which the sectional reports had been compiled. In the past, he said, it was difficult to tell which section they were considering; now they had a heading for each, which was a great advantage. He then asked about the source from which the reports came. He believed they were sent in by the district secretaries, and the district secretaries alone were responsible for the matter in them. He suggested that the reports would come with more weight and would give a more accurate *résumé* of the work of the district if they came from the district committees. He wished to know on what authority the district secretaries supplied these reports, in preference to the district committees. A second point he wished to refer to was in regard to the accounts. He noticed the amount reported as received from the Co-operative Union by each district association differed from the amount stated by the Union in the accounts in almost every instance.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON, as secretary of the Midland Section, said the reports of the district associations were presented to annual meetings with the sectional board, certainly by the secretary, but to his knowledge with the consent and agreement of the district committees.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the reason the amounts referred to differed was because in the 1914 accounts there would be eleven months of 1914 and one month of 1913. The district associations were always a month behind in the Union's financial statement.

FINANCES OF THE UNION.

(See Report 28, page 131.)

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton) congratulated the Union on the splendid balance sheet presented to that Congress. On reference to the balance sheet, he found that the Union had a capital of £328 and a surplus reserve fund of £8,899. That was a very happy and prosperous position to be in. The reason he called attention to these figures was because a number of societies raised objections to the increasing of the subscriptions to the Co-operative Union a year or two ago. Now there was a big surplus, which was bound to

increase year by year, and if it continued to increase, it seemed to be for no particular purpose only to save. He wanted to make a suggestion. The Co-operative Wholesale Society had this year led the way in giving what had been called a "war bonus"—an increased dividend of 6d. in the £. That had helped societies to get over the difficulties they had been in on account of the shrinkage of profits. On the principle that "every little helps," he suggested that the Union should give a "war bonus." It could be done by reducing the subscriptions from 1½d. to 1d., but that would necessitate an alteration of rule. His suggestion was that a rebate should be allowed of 25 per cent off the contributions for this year only, which would lessen the total received by £3,840.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Newspaper Society) asked how it was the subscriptions for 1914 totalled £500 more than those for 1913. Was the old rate of subscription in force in 1913?

The GENERAL SECRETARY informed him that the new rate of subscriptions was in force in 1913.

Mr. EVANS (Stafford District Association) wanted to know why there was no reference in the sectional reports to the growing of credit trading.

The CHAIRMAN: We have passed the sectional reports.

Mr. F. C. PHILIP (NELSON) referred to an item in the accounts regarding the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators. In the report they were told that there was nothing done during the year, and yet there was an expenditure of £21. 17s. If the committee had not met, what had they spent that money on?

The GENERAL SECRETARY replied to the effect that the financial report was made from 31st December, and the accounts of the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators and other committees' accounts were made up from Congress to Congress. It was due to the fact that the Congress year and the financial year did not end at the same time.

MINIMUM WAGE COMMITTEE.

(See Report 33, page 135.)

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section), in introducing the report of the above committee, said there was no need for the committee to try and get societies to adopt the minimum wage, because the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés was attending to that. They had found, however, that there was great scope for disseminating correct information on the general wage question respecting juniors and assistants, and they had published pamphlets, which they believed had done some good in the settlement of disputes between the two warring elements. He hoped the delegates would allow them to keep in operation this work, not as the Minimum Wage Committee, but as the Co-operative Employment Sub-committee, with the hope that they would be able to help in disseminating knowledge to prevent friction.

The report was adopted.

CO-OPERATION AND OTHER FORCES.

(See Report 35, page 137.)

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section) proposed the resolution of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union—

That this Congress agrees, in view of the opinion expressed by the votes of societies and at conferences, that no further action be taken on the question of co-operation with other forces.

He said the whole co-operative world had been invited to calmly consider the matter, and after they had done so the judgment was entered up for the delegates. Three proposals were set out for everyone to think upon, speak upon, and particularly to vote upon. The vote was very distinctive—whatever they might think with regard to fusion with the temperance movement, the Salvation Army, or any other movement. In any case, whether it was fusion, infusion, or confusion, the votes stood, and the votes told the tale. No. 3 was the one that ought to settle it. The question was whether they should go on with the matter or do as the Union asked them to do. They might give it a rest while the war was on. There were 1,799 in favour of No. 3 resolution, and on the other side there were 1,227. Therefore, they had seen that the judgment of their friends all over Britain and Ireland had been so emphatically declared that he asked Congress now to confirm the judgment of their brethren up and down the country.

Mr. W. H. BRYANT (Western Section) formally seconded the proposal.

Mr. E. O. GREENING, whose society (the Agricultural and Horticultural Association Limited) had submitted an amendment, asked leave, which was granted, to withdraw it in favour of the resolution of the Central Board. He referred to Noah of old who, when he had reason to think he was nearing the end of his tumultuous and trying voyage, sent out a winged messenger. When the bird came back, he knew peace was restored and there was firm land. He (the speaker) had pleasure in acting the part of the dove. Their friends who had been moving in the fusion of forces had given their undertaking that they would accept fully the decision of the co-operative movement. They, on their side, accepted with both hands their honourable undertaking. They withdrew, with pleasure, their resolution in favour of that of the Central Board, and they pledged themselves, if they would close the ranks, to go hand in hand without any feeling as regards the controversy in the past.

WARRINGTON AMENDMENT.

Mr. H. WARDMAN moved the amendment sent in by the Warrington Society :—

That this Congress approves the formation of a Joint Co-operative and Labour Board, on lines similar to those suggested in the appendix of this statement.

He said he would like to claim the indulgence of the Congress, as he was making his maiden attempt to address it. He wanted to say that because

he thought the grounds set out for the resolution of the Central Board were not sufficient guarantee that they should pass the question over for the reasons put forward. They were told that owing to the voting—a summary of which was given in the report—they should take no further action in regard to this important question. Might he draw the attention of the delegates to one or two facts in connection with that voting? He belonged to a society which might be classed as a fairly large society and which he supposed was counted in the number that had been invited to express their opinion with regard to this important question. That society had never recorded its opinion, either by its committee or by the quarterly meeting. Why? For the simple reason it had never had the opportunity. Who had been at fault he was not prepared to say that afternoon; nevertheless it was a fact that never had the question been put at Warrington during the whole of the twelve months, either at a committee meeting or at a quarterly meeting of the members. He had also talked with many delegates on the matter and he gathered there must be quite a number there that afternoon who were entirely in the same boat. If that was so, then he maintained it at once knocked the bottom out of the argument of the Central Board that because of the few replies they should drop once and for all the question they were discussing. Let them turn to the general question and ask this important question: Were the objects of the three bodies which it was proposed to fuse identical with the co-operative movement? Was there anything in them that the co-operative movement could take exception to? Were they true to co-operative principles or were they false? That should be the only factor which should decide the issue at stake. He wanted them to turn to the Appendix to the report and to ask whether they, as co-operators, could take any exception to what was set down there. There was no question whatever of a political alliance in the truest sense of the word, and politics was the proverbial red herring thrown across the path. It was simply this, that the three forces representing the great mass of the workers of the country should unite on specific grounds to educate the people on the burning questions of the day, and so bring them to a successful issue. That being so, he wanted to go one step farther. What was the use of having a Parliamentary Committee if it could do nothing? What was the Parliamentary Committee going to do if it flouted its friends? They had down on their agenda the question of a minimum wage, but they wanted the minimum wage not only for those in the co-operative movement, but also for the miner, the railway worker, and the host of other men who were toiling in the service of mankind. If those three forces were united, no Government, whatever its politics, could withhold the demands of a united democracy, when it came along. For these and other reasons, he moved the amendment standing in the name of the Warrington Society.

Mr. G. FAULKNER (Warrington) seconded, and said the Congress had been reminded of the huge problems they would have to face after the war was over. If the different working-class forces were united, they would be

in the better position to get over the difficulties. They claimed that the supreme question should be tested at the Congress in consequence of the few votes that had been given on it by societies. It was often pointed out in connection with the matter before them that association with any political party was not desirable from a co-operative point of view. He thought they took that too seriously altogether; they were absolutely forced into the arms of one political party, because it was completely consistent with matters of the co-operative movement. The other two parties—the Tories and the Liberals—never were.

The PRESIDENT explained that they had had a discussion on the subject at three Congresses. Last year it was put before them for consideration and the whole matter was reported upon; he had been wondering, therefore, whether they had not sufficiently made up their minds, and were prepared to vote.

Mr. F. MADDISON (Blackpool Union Printers) said he was obliged for the opinion expressed by the Chairman, but he regretted very much that the gentlemen who differed from him could not find some point at which they could become democrats. They had had this question put in all sorts of forms, and they had been beaten in all sorts of ways at Congress. On a number of occasions a vote had been taken, and it had gone decisively against what was called fusion of forces. Now that it had gone before the societies, and an odd society may not have received a circular (of which he knew nothing), the claim was that it should be taken up again at Congress on the ground that the count was not a fair one. The fact was that, if they took a plebiscite on the question, man for man, they would get an enormous majority against fusion. He regretted that the Congress had to have its time occupied by a question that was not vital to the existence of the movement, and, as many of them pleaded, was contrary to its existence. They could work with trade-unionists upon any question that might arise; but they must not mistake the meaning of the amendment. Those who supported it were out for a definite purpose, which was to ally their great movement for social reform to a political movement. The Labour Party contained many men whom he respected and with whom he was personally friendly. He had sat in the House of Commons, and had at times been compelled to oppose them. But the Labour Party was a political party as much as the Liberal or the Tory Party. They must vote on Home Rule and on Disestablishment, and on every question. Again he would raise his warning voice that if once the politician got into the movement he would wreck it and destroy it.

The PRESIDENT: Perhaps the question may now be voted upon without further discussion.

Mr. PENNY (Sheffield): This is the third Congress in succession at which the discussion of this subject has been burked.

The PRESIDENT objected to the statement that the discussion was being burked, and pointed out the delegates had the thing in their own

hands. He then put it to a vote whether the question should be put, and the delegates voted for the affirmative.

The Warrington amendment was put against the Co-operative Union resolution, and the vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the Union's resolution. The vote was next taken for and against the resolution, and the resolution was declared carried, the decision being greeted with loud applause.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

The following telegram was received from the Sons of Temperance, in conference at Leeds :—

“Sons of Temperance in session assembled tender heartiest fraternal greetings and wish your society successful conference.”

On the motion of Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper Society), it was agreed to send a suitable reply.

Several announcements were made regarding functions in connection with the Congress, and the session closed.





SECOND DAY OF CONGRESS.

TUESDAY, 25th MAY, 1915.

MORNING SITTING.

Congress reassembled on the Tuesday morning, and the President, taking the chair, addressed the delegates as follows:—I wish you good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I hope the weather will be fine again to-day and that our sittings will be as well attended as those of yesterday.

The Delegates heartily reciprocated the salutations of the President.

GREETINGS FROM CANADA.

The PRESIDENT proceeded to read a telegram from the Canadian Co-operative Congress, assembled at Ontario, sending fraternal greetings.

A MESSAGE FROM SWEDEN.

The PRESIDENT then read a letter from Stockholm to the effect that the co-operators of Sweden regretted they were unable to send delegates to the British Congress this year. They had delayed answering the invitation to be represented as long as possible, in the hope that circumstances would permit them to send delegates. "The present international situation calls specially the co-operators to show their solidarity (the letter proceeded), and we regret to say we are obliged to give up the thought of visiting you." The co-operators of Sweden also expressed the hope that their inability to be represented at the Congress would not stand in the way of the British co-operative movement being represented at their Congress

and that they would have the opportunity, as usual, of "greeting your welcome delegates."

CONCILIATION BOARDS.

(See Report 37, page 144.)

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section), as a member of the committee appointed to draw up a scheme for the appointment of conciliation boards, submitted the following resolution which, he said, they would find printed at the end of the report dealing with the formation of such boards:—

That this Congress approves the scheme now submitted for the appointment of conciliation boards, and instructs the United Board, in conjunction with the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés to set up the necessary machinery to bring it into operation as early as possible.

They would remember that the Dublin Congress last year expressed itself very strongly that the time had arrived when an attempt should be made to set up some machinery in the co-operative movement whereby disputes and strikes between committees of societies and their employés relating to wages and conditions of labour could be prevented. Since that Congress the United Board, through one of its committees, had had several conferences with the executive committee of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, with the result that they had arrived at what they considered, for the time being at any rate, a satisfactory scheme for accomplishing the end they had in view. It was quite possible the scheme would not satisfy everybody. He might say neither side got all it desired, but when parties were endeavouring to arrive at a basis of agreement give and take were necessary, and they had to be satisfied with what they considered the basis for a better and improved state of things. Whether they had achieved this in the present instance—whether they had evolved something which would lead to good relations between committees and employés—time alone could prove. They would notice that in the scheme provision had been made for both sides to be equally represented on the conciliation boards and for disputes to be referred to arbitration when the boards could not settle them themselves. They would also notice that provision had been made, not only to include the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, but also the unions of allied trades where they could claim 25 per cent of the employés as their members. They had the scheme before them and he proposed to content himself with leaving the matter in their hands, hearing what they had to say, and, if possible, giving any answers or explanations they might require. He just wanted to say, however, it might be in their minds, that they already had a committee which it was intended to settle disputes which might arise in the co-operative movement; he referred to the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators. It was not their intention, in suggesting the formation of conciliation boards,

that the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators should be done away with, but to endeavour to settle differences between committees and employes before they reached an acute stage. The good offices of the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators would only be sought, as they were probably aware, when a split had actually taken place. They would readily recognise, he thought, it was far better that they should prevent, if at all possible, any strife arising, and if they succeeded it would be unnecessary to call in the assistance of the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators. They wanted to make it impossible for strife of any kind to arise in the co-operative movement. In a movement like theirs, based as it was on equality and justice, there should be no necessity for disputes to take place between committees of societies and their employes, and should a dispute unfortunately arise they should be capable of settling it without a strike being resorted to. He moved the resolution with a slight alteration, which made it read as follows :—

That this Congress approves the scheme now submitted for the appointment of conciliation boards, and instructs the United Board, in conjunction with the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes *and other trade unions interested* to set up the necessary machinery to bring it into operation as early as possible.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) explained that he seconded the resolution because Mr. Bisset had lost his voice. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes, at the beginning, he said, had justified its existence ; but there seemed to have gradually crept in between the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes and the committees of societies a feeling that was likely to divorce these two bodies in a way that would be harmful to co-operation. He looked upon the friends who served in the shops as colleagues of his in the movement ; and he objected to any spirit being introduced to make it impossible to look upon them as other than earnest, happy, co-operative missionaries. As the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes were reasonable—and in the north they had found them so—and as we were reasonable, there should be no gap between them and us that would be unbridgeable. The constitution of the board would require some slight alteration from time to time, but the Congress should show that we were offering not a fist, but an open hand, and then all would be well.

Mr. J. PENNY (Planet Mutual Insurance, Sheffield) said he was disappointed. The scheme provided for conciliation only between directors and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes. He noticed clause 6, which said that other trade unions directly affected might seek representation, but they could only get representation on these boards if they constituted 25 per cent of the people affected. He could not understand why that was put in. Apart from the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes, a trade union could not reach a standard of 25 per cent. Carters

should not be members of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, but members of the Carters' Union. Clerks, for example, should also separate from the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés and join the Clerks' Union, and it could be all for the good. There should be a union for each trade and no such conglomeration as they had in some of the unskilled unions of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. In recognising only the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés the co-operative movement would be preparing the way for trouble with the trade unions of the country in the future. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés had practically declared war on the other unions by undertaking to take into membership men who should be connected with the millers, bakers, clerks, carters, and the other unions. He asked Congress to oppose the establishment of these proposed boards, which would not be satisfactory, which were not on a sufficiently broad basis, and which would embroil the movement with the other organisations of the country.

Mr. W. ABBOTS (Walsall) deprecated the proposal of the United Board to bring into being another board. There were already more boards than brains in the movement. They had already brought into being machinery to settle disputes, and his committee saw no reason why co-operative committees should not be indicted at the bar of public opinion like other employers. They did not want to have a close corporation discussing these matters, and he thought the United Board guilty of overlapping in setting up the proposed machinery.

Mr. H. WARDMAN (Warrington) disagreed with some of Mr. Penny's contentions. He wanted to see the trade-unionists of the country members of great national organisations. When they got to this they would be on the fair road to success, and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés was taking a step in the right direction. If he could be assured that there was going to be a properly elected board representing the committees and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, he would be with the resolution.

Mr. J. PRYOR (Sidmouth) objected that the amendment to the resolution seemed to him to be out of order. Last year the delegates at Dublin Congress instructed the United Board to set up a committee for the purpose proposed and not to reconstitute the committee already existing; the Board had done so, and had produced this scheme; and he asked if they were, in these circumstances, reasonable or honest in opposing their proposal. The Board having devoted their attention to the matter between last Congress and this, after having been so instructed, he thought the opposition was not reasonable.

Mr. F. GILLBANKS (Dewsbury) said that whether the scheme justified itself or not, time would tell. The method already adopted with regard to the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés and kindred organisations within the movement was not satisfactory at present. The employé had no proper redress when he had a grievance, and he thought the Union

should set up machinery like this for adjusting matters. He supported the resolution because by it they would be starting to settle matters in a business way, and they would not have the menace of labour being withdrawn. Co-operators should be model employers and should not take the narrow stand of other employers. The time would come when the interest of the employer and the employé would form the basis of service for the employé; if the co-operative movement could only get that, it would be easier for those trade-unionists outside to get better terms.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Sectional Board) said a year ago, when this question was under consideration, the movement was threatened with disputes and disturbances. Although they did not agree with the policy of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés in taking into membership men of all crafts who should be associated with their own craft union, they had to deal with things as they were. Provision had been made for representation by other trade unions, which had 25 per cent of their membership in the affected area. With reference to the old Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators, which had done valuable work, they realised that the employés had lost confidence in this organisation. Therefore it was necessary to set up new machinery in which both sides could have the fullest confidence and full representation. If they accepted this scheme it would be the adoption of a principle which would ultimately lead to the settlement of all differences by this means, instead of the barbarous method of strikes. They would also set an example to the capitalist.

Mr. A. MANN (Leicester) had pleasure in supporting the scheme, because he had the honour of moving the resolution coming from the Leicester Society, through which these conciliation boards had come to something like completeness. This was a step that should have been taken some time ago by the co-operative movement. It was all very well to say that there was a Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators, but it was notorious that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés' members were not satisfied with that board, for not all committees of co-operative societies were trade-unionists themselves. He held that there was quite sufficient provision made in clause 6 for representation by any other trade union, and he did not think there would be the slightest difficulty in settling disputes in regard to other unions, even though they might not be represented. After all, the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés had a higher standard than was found in almost any of the other unions. He asked the Congress with confidence to pass the resolution.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper) said he opposed the resolution. He thought the carters, or the millers, or any other organisation of workmen in the co-operative movement should belong to their respective trade unions. As a member of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers he thought they were as capable of giving an intelligent consideration to matters as were the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés ought to work alongside

with the Shop Assistants' Union; they should all work together, and if the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés had any sympathy with their fellow-men they would give them a lift on the way. Those that were employed in the co-operative movement should belong to their own respective unions, and help to lift the conditions of their brothers. If they passed the resolution it would be no solution; it was not fair, or equitable, or wise.

Mr. J. A. EDWARDS (City of Liverpool) said he thought the Congress was in favour of some scheme of conciliation, but the scheme before them did not commend itself to any thinking, reasonable human being. It was one that would have to be patched up from time to time, and that time to time would be so often that very little would be done. They had to face the fact that all co-operative employés were not members of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. The seconder of the resolution said that the scheme was simply holding out the open hand. Well, it was all open. They were simply making trouble for themselves in future if they were to adopt the scheme. Therefore, it would be better if the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés referred it back, and called in other trade union representatives with the object of coming to some proper working arrangement. It would have been better to have had other trade-unionists present when the scheme was drawn up.

Mr. R. S. GORDON (Plymouth) observed that if the scheme was considered to be an olive branch, he was sure there was a majority at Congress who would not adopt it. They had pointed out in the resolution that they were giving preferential treatment to one trade union, and that trade union was outside the pale of other trade organisations in the country. If the committee were in earnest about the matter, and they wanted to satisfy the trade-unionists represented in the co-operative movement, then they would have to appeal to the trade union movement for a solution of the problem. The Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés could be represented on all trade councils in the country, and that being so, it would be fairer than what they proposed that day. They thought that a resolution on more equitable lines should be brought forward next Congress, and one that would be more fair to other trade-unionists.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial) recalled the fact that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés was, at the moment, a member of the Trades Union Congress. Its status in the trade union movement had been settled by that Congress. He recognised fully that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés did not represent the whole of the employés in a society. In many areas there were 100 per cent of the carters in the Carters' Union. It was the same with regard to the bakers. He appealed to Congress not to allow the possibility of hindering progress, but to go forward with the scheme. He suggested that with the district boards there should be a member of the Central Board, with power to vote.

Mr. J. HALSTEAD (Hebden Bridge Industrial) thought they ought to be

able to settle internal differences without appeal to the outside. For that reason he supported the resolution. He referred to the satisfactory experience of his own society. They had been established since 1870 and had never had a strike.

Mr. J. HENSON (Birmingham Industrial) thought the one thing they had to deplore most in the co-operative movement was the number of trade unions they had in competition, each one trying to cut the other's throat. They had to concentrate them so as to get the best out of all of them, and committees could come to an arrangement satisfactory to all. In a recent dispute one society had three separate unions making three separate demands on three separate occasions to cover one particular thing. They ought to support the Central Board's recommendation; if it did not remedy this state of things, it would go some way towards it. If they could bridge the differences between the unions instead of letting them fight each other, because one man would not belong to two unions, they would be wise to bring this scheme about. The addition of 25 per cent of any other trade would be material. In his own society the carters could easily get their 25 per cent; the bakers could do the same. They would have no trouble in carrying out the scheme. The best thing they could do was to give it a trial. This was a step in the right direction. The conciliation boards of the Government had not been a great success, but in the co-operative movement it had been found that the employes were always ready to agree if they could be got round a table.

Mr. S. KEMP (Wigston Hosiers) asked if Congress was going back on its resolution of the previous day. Were they going to carry a resolution in favour of arbitration in international disputes, and then go lower in their own movement. If the resolution carried with it the danger that had been anticipated, he would be prepared to suggest an amendment; but he did not see that it did. In clause 6 they had it clearly laid down that in any case in dispute any union that was affected to the extent of 25 per cent of its members could come in and representation would be accorded. That was a very reasonable safeguard. Then, in connection with the point raised by Mr. Sharples, they were told in clause 4 that an equal number of each side should vote. That cleared up that point. If they wanted peace in their own movement, they had the means of settling disputes in the fairest and most reasonable way. They would never get a better opportunity than now. He was told that there was still in some directions a disposition to go out of the way to cause trouble. There was a suggestion that they should take sides with regard to the position of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes. That was a question for the unions to settle with the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes. They might have opinions on it, but that was not the time to take up the matter. The arrangement suggested was the best under the circumstances.

Mr. F. MADDISON (Blackpool Union Printers) said they were discussing a very important matter. They were all agreed about conciliation, and they were all agreed there was not the slightest reason to say hard things about

the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. But what they had to consider might become a very vital matter very soon in the trade union world as well as in the co-operative world. They could not reckon a proportion of 25 per cent as though it only affected particular men in a particular society. Let him give an instance. There was the Shop Assistants' Union ; and, of course, Mr. Millerchip did not mean what he said when he claimed superiority for the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. He held no brief for the Shop Assistants' Union, but supposing the members of that union represented only 15 per cent of the employés of any particular society, the policy that was about to be adopted might have a very far-reaching effect upon the general policy of that union. He really did hope that the scheme might be amended so that there would be recognition, not of any particular number of employés belonging to a certain union, but the union as an entity. He quite admitted the high motives behind the resolution. Conciliation was everything they should desire and strive for, but the adoption of the scheme and resolution as they stood would mean the breaking of the national standard of trade-unionism. It was one and indivisible, because a shop assistant working in a co-operative society was still a shop assistant ; and the entity of labour—the solidarity of organised labour he meant—obviously suggested the desirability of one standard on the trade union side ; not the standard set up by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, but the standard set up by the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress. What was the object of the Labour Board ? That was the main interest to him. When there was a dispute, what did they do ? They summoned the body which spoke for organised labour and had the confidence of shop assistants as a whole, and not of John Jones, a shop assistant in the Rochdale Co-operative Society. There was a danger here. They had to fight the same thing with the municipal employés. They wanted to solidify labour ; otherwise the various unions would " hold you up to their advantage and not your own."

A DELEGATE : In the event of this resolution being carried, will the Joint Committee of Co-operators and Trade-unionists be disbanded ?

The CHAIRMAN : No.

Mr. GREGORY said he did not intend to take up much of their time in replying to the discussion, as one delegate had pretty well answered another. The second speaker seemed to think they should be indicted for bringing another committee into existence, but those well acquainted with the trend of events in the co-operative movement would know why the new committee had been formed. The delegate suggested they already had more boards than brains in the movement. His reply was that the boards were made up from committees, and that they should make a better selection of their wood. Mr. Penny said he disagreed with the proposal. He did not think Mr. Penny disagreed with the principle of the scheme, but that he feared, because of something which was between the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés and kindred trade unions, there might be trouble in the near future. He (Mr. Gregory) said to Mr. Penny, and to all who desired

to push forward, if they delayed action on account of something which might happen in the future, they would never go forward ; they would never make any progress. They had taken things as they were ; and might he just refresh their memories as to what was in the air when they instructed the United Board to go into this matter with the object of building up some machinery to settle disputes before they became acute ? A circular had been issued to all the societies in the United Kingdom, practically, by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, making certain demands. There seemed to be prospects of serious trouble and some disagreements between societies and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, and appeals were made to the Co-operative Union to see if it was not possible to bring about some understanding between that trade union and the co-operative societies. That was the beginning of the trouble, and there were elements of danger which might develop and become serious. The suggestion had been put to them that all this had been arranged and designed with the special object of solidifying and giving the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés a standing and a preference from which it would be impossible to remove them. Mr. Maddison had expressed his fears and he seemed to think the 25 per cent proportion of employés of other unions was impracticable of application. He would like to say they had seriously considered the position of the Shop Assistants' Union and all other trade unions in regard to the matter they were now discussing. They recognised the point that had been made, that taking any individual society it would probably be impossible for them to be represented on the board. They had, however, made provision to meet that point, and it was intended that the 25 per cent proportion of employés of other unions should be made up from groups of societies in any given district. The conciliation boards would be made up from the whole of the district, and the percentage would be reckoned from the number of societies in that district. They were dealing with their own business, with their own movement ; and if trouble occurred between different unions, it was for them to settle. It was not their quarrel, and it had nothing to do with them. When they and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés decided upon the scheme now before them, they decided to place it before their respective congresses or annual meetings. He had pleasure in moving the adoption of the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the Congress, and the delegates having voted by a show of hands, the PRESIDENT said, " I feel sure it is carried."

A card vote was, however, demanded, and the President acceded to the request.

The resolution was then put to the vote for a second time, and the result was as follows :—For, 1,493 ; against, 627.

OVERLAPPING.

(See Report 40, page 153.)

On the report dealing with the acute overlapping between the Aber-sychan and Blaenavon societies, Mr. POLLITT moved—

That this Congress regrets the decision of the Abersychan committee not to submit the boundaries dispute in their area to arbitration, such a course being detrimental to the progress of the societies concerned and to the welfare of the movement in the district. Further, it requests the United Board to renew its efforts to bring about a settlement in the best interests of all concerned.

Mr. Pollitt referred the delegates to paragraph 40 from which they would see that there had been an overlapping dispute in South Wales since 1907. At that time the late General Secretary presented a report. Matters had not improved and a special committee was appointed to see if something could not be done to bring about an amicable settlement. They had tried; but although they could not submit a report at the time the Union report was printed, he was now able to say that one of the parties to the dispute was willing to accept arbitration, but the other was not. The Board asked the Congress to express its opinion on the principle of arbitration. They did so because so long as disputes of this kind existed, societies were hampered in their work; the time that committees ought to give to carrying on the business and to considering the welfare of the societies had to be taken up in dealing with matters relating to the disputes, and the disputes hindered societies in their operations, gave the societies a bad name in their own districts, and conduced to lessened confidence in the society on the part of the people of the district. He asked the Congress to help the Board in its efforts by placing on record its belief in the principle of arbitration in such cases.

Mr. D. EVANS (Western Section): I am for the first time addressing Congress; and I come from a country where they are all modest and reserved men. Proceeding, Mr. Evans said he had to second the resolution. Overlapping in the movement was like German gas—it had to be dealt with drastically. Following the Dublin Congress an overlapping committee was formed in Breconshire, Monmouthshire, and East Glamorganshire; and this committee was asked to deal with the dispute between Abersychan and Blaenavon. At a meeting held in Newport in September last, he said, Blaenavon agreed to accept amalgamation, boundary lines, or arbitration; but he went on to deal with further details of the dispute. Abersychan suggested the formation of a joint board. This board was instituted and went merrily on till 13th February, when a submarine appeared on the horizon. It was not the U 39, for the U 39 was torpedoed. The Abersychan Society had decided to go on with the building of a branch in Albion Road and decided that they could not accede to the request of the Blaenavon Society that the building should not go on. At a further meeting the Abersychan Society decided again that they could not accede to the request. Now they hoped this question could be settled amicably. South Wales was developing on co-operative lines; but overlapping brought increased difficulties and they wanted to prevent friction of this kind. They

wanted Congress to place on record its appreciation of all efforts to avoid overlapping.

Mr. C. W. DEWSBURY (Birmingham Printers) said he thought it was ridiculous for the United Board to bring reports about overlapping when they were doing their best to foster it. It was simply hypocritical if the Congress was going to attempt to unify the co-operative forces, whilst the United Board were going on—or doing their best to go on with overlapping.

Mr. A. HORRICKS (Pendleton), addressing the assembly from the far gallery of the hall, was inaudible at the reporters' table. When he resumed his seat, the President suggested that the vote should be put. Congress agreed to this course, and the resolution was unanimously carried.

THE LIMIT OF INSPECTION.

(See Report 41, page 153.)

Mr. W. J. M'GUFFIN (Belfast) drew attention (under paragraph headed "Legal Matters") to the legal question affecting the meaning of the word "inspection," in the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. Referring to the dispute which has been proceeding in Belfast with regard to this matter, he expressed thanks for the cordial assistance of the Union, and he thought that a report on the case in which Belfast Society was now involved should have been presented to the whole of the movement. He considered that it was a matter of too much importance to let it rest where it now stood, because according to the judgment of Judge Craig, it was possible for any member of any society to enter the office, after making arrangements with the committee, to scrutinise the name of every member on the register, and acquire knowledge which might be used against the interests of the society. They desired that the United Board should give them some guidance in the matter. They had received a telegram to say that it was not being pursued any farther. He thought, however, that the judgment of the Irish Judiciary ought not to be taken as final. In self-defence, the Belfast Society had taken action through the agency of their members. The Assistant Registrar of Ireland had declined to register their plea, as he considered it *ultra vires*, and they had referred it to the Chief Registrar in London, to whom they had applied to recoup their title of amendment to the rules; and they now submitted in the interests of the movement, that the Union should be represented before the Registrar, and the case ought to be fought to a finality.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the matter had not been lost sight of, but the United Board had not met since the decision was given in the Irish court. Immediately that decision was given, it was placed in the hands of the solicitors of the Union—who had been dealing with the matter—to get further information. They came to the conclusion that it was not advisable to appeal against the decision in Ireland. The general opinion was that the same weight would not be attached to a decision given in Ireland as in the higher courts in England. The United Board would con-

sider the advisability of taking up a friendly test case. As to arguing out the question in the rule with the Registrar, he was afraid the Registrar would not do that until this test case had been submitted. It was a very important matter. The Union had informed the Belfast Society that they were not going to appeal, and explained why they were taking that action. He thought it would be better to leave this matter in the hands of the United Board.

CONTRACTS WITH PUBLIC BODIES.

(See Report 42, page 154)

Mr. F. PERRIMAN (Southampton) wished there had been more activity demonstrated in the paragraph regarding contracts with public bodies. It seemed to him that that report, not coupled with any definite movement on the part of the Union, must raise a great deal of disturbance as to what the position of societies was going to be in the future. Some of them had the idea that the time was fast coming when they, as an organisation, should be able to meet the demands of the municipalities, and take interest in those demands, with a view to satisfying them with goods manufactured by themselves. Some of them had been anxious that the demands of municipalities should be met by the Wholesale Society. He found the advice of a solicitor was that it was a case for legislation rather than litigation, and he would like the assurance that if legislation was necessary something would be done in order to clear the constitution. His experience of a public body was that it was the easiest thing to secure contracts from the hands of the council. He knew of two cases within the last eighteen months, in which private employers had turned their businesses into limited liability companies, without any great effort or cost to their trade; and if these gentlemen could escape from the rule by registering their businesses as limited liability companies, they, as co-operators, should do the same.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said this was another matter which had not been lost sight of. It was being dealt with by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but just at present there was not much hope of legislation. He did not think they could do any good by discussing the question that morning. Societies requiring information as to whether they would be right in taking contracts from urban councils, town councils, &c., should consult the Co-operative Union.

There were cries of "Pass on," and on the CHAIRMAN asking for the opinion of Congress, it was decided to pass on to the next business.

COLLECTIVE ASSURANCE.

(See Report 43, page 155.)

Mr. W. E. BANISTER (Soho) drew attention to the decision in the courts regarding societies carrying on the business of collective assurance, apart from the Wholesale Societies. It also had an echo in the amendment to the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, when societies were prevented

from taking more capital into the movement to further its progress. Co-operators, he said, intended to fight this legal harassing of co-operative societies, which was being done in different forms in all parts of the country. They intended to have their rights. He asked what counsel's opinion on this matter was, and if it would be sent out to all societies, or only to societies which were doing collective assurance business independently. He thought the Congress should back up the Toxteth and City of Liverpool societies, which had fought this action.

Mr. W. H. MASON (City of Liverpool) thanked the previous speaker for the references to the action fought by the Toxteth and City of Liverpool societies, and said, as most of them would know, they had a very anxious time in connection with the case. They now realised, however, that they had the bulk of co-operative opinion behind them and that they were quite justified in fighting to a finish. He asked what questions the Union thought necessary to put to counsel, and what were his replies.

The GENERAL SECRETARY, in replying, said that certain questions were put to Sir Robert Finlay, who had given his opinion, but he (the speaker) could not give the particulars just then regarding counsel's opinion. Societies could have this on applying to the Central Office. The whole matter would come before the United Board at its first meeting.

The SOHO DELEGATE : It should be sent out to all societies.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the information would not be of use to all societies ; it would require a long statement to be made to deal with every point which arose. When there was any doubt, societies should communicate with the Union.

" HUGHES " SCHOLARSHIP.

(See Report 45, page 157.)

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced that Mr. P. H. Smith (of Edinburgh) had been selected as the candidate for the " Hughes " scholarship.

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION AND THE WOMEN'S GUILD.

(See Report 49, page 159.)

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section), on behalf of the Central Board, said that the question of the grant to the Women's Co-operative Guild had during the past Congress year caused a great deal of controversy. It had given rise to some violent differences of opinion and some misunderstandings. The conduct of the Central Board had been impugned, their motives had been questioned, and their authority over the finances of the Union had been openly flouted and disputed. Satisfied as to their position, they had decided to meet the issue, and the Central Board had requested him to ask Congress for a unanimous confirmation of the following resolution :—

That this Congress endorses the policy hitherto pursued by the Central Board, as the administrative authority of Congress, and confirms its right to withhold grants from any organisa-

tion which, in its opinion, is pursuing a policy detrimental to the best interests of the co-operative movement.

They deeply regretted the controversy. It was not a pleasure to have to occupy this apparently ungallant attitude. They admired the work of the Women's Guild and appreciated the zeal with which they had worked in the co-operative movement, and they desired that no unkind word should be spoken. But the gauntlet had been thrown down and it was up to the Central Board, as the executive authority of Congress, to take it up. The provision in their rules was that the funds should be expended under the authority of the Central Board. But as the funds were contributed by the constituent members of the Union, it would be highly unjust that they should be expended in any manner detrimental to those contributors. Common justice should see that nothing was done against the convictions of the movement. It had been asserted that the Board had submitted to the demand of a sectarian organisation. Nothing could be farther from the truth. At the last Congress they met a deputation from the Catholic Federation. The Central Board was always willing to receive deputations from representative persons who might wish to discuss matters of policy and administration. But prior to that deputation being received, Mr. Whitehead wrote to the Women's Guild that "whilst not identifying themselves with the opinions put forward by the Federation, the Board feel that it would be very inadvisable for the Guild to carry on propaganda of this nature in the name of the co-operative movement, and they desire that your Central Committee will very seriously consider the advisability of giving up work in this direction, otherwise they think it is bound to lead to disruptions in the movement." There was surely nothing dictatorial about that letter; it was courteously worded. They met the deputation, and whilst they paid respect to the religious scruples of every section of the community they were not unduly influenced by any of them. To the Catholic, marriage was a sacrament of his church. With him there could be no such thing as divorce; the marriage bond could only be broken by the article of death. How could it be in the interests of the movement that they should favour the continuance of that agitation which was grossly offensive to the conscientious convictions of their Catholic friends. The contention of the Board was that, having accepted their contribution to their funds, the Women's Guild should drop the agitation. It was unfair to use the money thus received to finance an agitation highly objectionable. It was objectionable to others besides Catholics. Churchmen, Nonconformists, and, should he say, all who desired a clean bill of national moral health objected to pay for this agitation in favour of divorce being made cheap and easy. It was asserted that they sought to rob the Guild of its freedom. They had had a great deal of wild-cat talk. They claimed no jurisdiction over the affairs of the guild, but they claimed authority for the finances of the Union. Hitherto they had shown approval of the work of the Guild by making substantial and generous grants, but if in the exercise

of this liberty they chose to engage in and continue a policy against which the Central Board had protested, and which they had courteously asked the Women's Guild to reconsider, how, in the name of all that was reasonable, could their lady friends expect to continue to receive financial support? It was always asserted that those who objected were in a minority; had minorities no rights? They protested against the divine rights of kings and ought to dispute the right of majorities to ride rough-shod over the cherished convictions of those associated with them. He asked Congress whether because their Catholic friends were in a minority they were entitled to set at defiance their scruples on divorce reform which was entirely outside the scope of co-operation. The Central Board brought the case before Congress as the high court of appeal. They left the matter in the hands of delegates, confident in the soundness of their judgment, and believed they would confirm the vote of confidence which the motion meant.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) said it was more in sorrow than in anger that he rose to second the resolution. He expected he would find it a difficult task to follow Mr. Fleming. The whole question, to him, was one of law and order within the movement. The resolution asked the Congress to support the policy of the Central Board in giving grants. That policy was to stimulate action where action seemed desirable, and to check action where that action was thought to be undesirable. He wanted Congress to confirm that policy, and he went on to commend the toleration and generosity of the Central Board, and remarked that in financial help to the Women's Guild the generosity of the Central Board had been beyond the dreams of avarice. There were 32,000 members of the Guild; if they were all members of the Co-operative Union, and if the Board calculated their grant at the rate of subscriptions to the Union, it would amount to £166. 13s. 4d. Instead, they gave them £400, which was about 3d. per head. During the past year the Central Education Committee had spent about £150 for the education of women—they all recognised that that was necessary. They had, however, always given these subscriptions on the understanding that there was some connection between the Guild and the Union; but when the ladies themselves were saying they were an alien organisation, Congress ought to impeach the Central Board for subscribing to an alien organisation. He contended that the Central Board had given the widest liberty to the Guild to enter into all subjects except those of a high explosive character—and they all knew that high explosives were used for death, destruction, and devastation. He submitted that there was no organisation in existence that had in it so many sorts of democrats as were listening to him that morning, and he challenged anyone to cite an instance of any organisation that had been as tolerant in its interpretation of these considerations as the Central Board had been in connection with the Women's Guild. He did think, however, that the attitude of the Board on this question would give a lesson, much needed in democratic organisations—a lesson in discipline, which, if not learned by the democracy, would end in sound and fury signifying nothing.

Mrs. M. FOUND (Bristol) said she had the following amendment to move on behalf of Bristol Society :—

That this Congress endorses the principle of self-government of the Women's Guild, and, further, it directs that the grant of £400 for 1914 be paid to the Guild, and that the grant be made in future on the same lines as formerly.

They were asking Congress to endorse the self-government of the Guild, because she thought the work of the Guild in the past had been a good one : it was the broad-mindedness of the Guild that had made it a success. The reports of the Guild had been before the Congress year after year, and their reports upon the question in dispute had been before Congress, and no word of dissent had been ever raised, which went to show that the movement as a whole approved of their work. They brought that resolution forward because they wanted Congress to endorse it. They believed that the movement was not in favour of the agitation against the Guild, nor were the Catholics themselves entirely in favour of it ; at any rate, they were not interested in it. That was shown by a statement in a Catholic newspaper, which reported that the annoying fact was that Catholics were beaten on this question, not by the numerical strength of their opponents, but by themselves. Surely, if the Catholics had been keen on the question, they would have turned up in large numbers at meetings held for the purpose of raising the question. Much had been said about the Guild questioning the right of the Central Board in stopping their grant. The Guild, she said, had never questioned the right of the Central Board in stopping the grant. What they said was that they questioned the right of stopping that grant at the request of a sectarian body. If they voted for an outside sectarian body dictating the policy, they were laying up trouble for the future. Every petty sectarian body might cause trouble in future. They were told that the Guild was working towards disruption, and might alienate the Catholics. But there was a greater danger than that ; there was the danger of alienating the 32,000 women of the Guild. Some of the methods pursued in connection with the agitation had been most despicable to put down the Guild in this matter. She and others had received anonymous letters ; but she would ask the Congress to take no notice of the anonymous letter they had received before coming into the hall. The 32,000 women of the Guild had no axe to grind with regard to the question of divorce or any other matter. They were putting in their work voluntarily from the general secretary to the humblest member. Some people thought the women were making something out of the movement, but they were doing their work for the love of it and in the interests of humanity. The reform they were pursuing was one that was very necessary indeed. People who talked about divorce being against religious convictions forgot that they were living under divorce laws at present. What the Guild was doing was not to get a divorce law on the statute book, but to get a bad law made into a good one. The Guild, however, had dealt with the question as they

had dealt with all other questions, and they did not want Congress to tie their hands in a way that they could not in future give voice to their legislative wishes. She appealed to them with all the earnestness she possessed to vote on behalf of the Guild. The amendment she proposed was just, and should be passed in justice to the women who had been working for the movement for many, many years.

Mr. R. BROWN (Kilmarnock) was understood to say that they in Scotland had followed the controversy between the Co-operative Union and the Women's Guild with a good deal of interest. They had evidence of the excellent work the women had done in the past, and it must have freedom to continue it in the future. He had great pleasure in seconding the amendment.

THE ECCLES AMENDMENT.

Mr. D. B. EVANS (Eccles) moved the following resolution sent in by the Eccles Provident and the Longridge Industrial societies :—

That this Congress endorses the action of the Central Board in withholding the £400 grant, and believes that the Women's Co-operative Guild should abandon the divorce propaganda, because it is compromising the co-operative movement upon a question which is a religious one to many co-operators, and is therefore alien to the principles of the co-operative movement.

He said he need not explain the reasons for moving the resolution standing in the name of the Eccles Society ; they had already been given in the speeches made from the platform. He wanted, however, to speak to the amendment from a different point of view ; that was to say, he wished to deal with the subject from the co-operative point of view. They heard yesterday the meaning of co-operation. What was the meaning of co-operation ? It was unity and loyalty to one another ; and yet they had a body—an important body—attached to the co-operative movement, namely, the Women's Guild, discussing a subject which was not very nice to a very large number of members of the co-operative movement. He did not propose to go into the religious aspect of the case. What was the meaning of divorce ? It was tearing asunder—disruption of the home life of the individual. If they, as co-operators, were out for unity, why should an important branch of the movement be allowed to preach disruption and disunity ? If they did not agree with his point of view, they could express their own. He sat quiet whilst listening to the other speakers. They at Eccles had a special meeting to discuss the matter, and they decided in favour of the action of the United Board by a majority of nine to one. He did not think he could add much to what he had already said, but he thought if the Women's Guild would act wisely and well they would see the error of their ways and drop this shoddy article of divorce law reform.

Mr. A. HORRICKS (Pendleton) was understood to say that, as they all knew, trouble had already been caused in many societies through this very question of divorce law reform ; and how could they make progress except

they were at unity amongst themselves ? They, at Pendleton had discussed the subject on many occasions, and they decided that, as it was of a religious nature, it should be kept out of the movement entirely. He could also speak as a Catholic, and as such he had the right to the respect which he would show to other denominations. It was to him a decidedly religious question. He was not concerned in the slightest degree as to how the voting went at that Congress, because he believed they were not getting proper representation on a question which was of great importance to them.

WARRINGTON AMENDMENT.

The PRESIDENT, on the suggestion of the Standing Orders Committee, said he proposed to have all the amendments moved and then to throw the whole subject open for discussion. The next amendment was from Warrington, and it would be moved by Mr. Sherburn on behalf of that society.

Mr. W. H. SHERBURN (Warrington) said the amendment he had to move was as follows :—

That the following words be added to the Central Board resolution, viz. : “Subject to the final decision of Congress.”

In moving the addition of those innocent but democratic words to the resolution of the Central Board, he wanted to express appreciation of the tone of the Central Board's report on this matter. He thought it was a very fair tone—in fact, a sympathetic tone—towards the Women's Guild. But if the Central Board, through mistaken pressure, had taken an unwise step, they, as a Congress, ought to be able to say so ; and if they had shown a restricted confidence in the Women's Guild, they had set them (the delegates) an example of showing a restricted confidence in them by asking that this matter should come before Congress for final approval. It had already been said that this agitation against one part of the guild programme was a mistaken policy. He said that also. It was not a religious question. He respected the religious opinions of every man, and he respected the opinions of a man who said he had no religion. But this was a matter of liberty, and if they once allowed pressure to come into the movement, there would be a good many small and perhaps mistaken associations trying to do the same thing. They had within their movement a good many private traders. Why they were he could not tell them. He could quite conceive an agitation being got up by those private traders against an item of the guild programme, viz., “push-the-sales” campaign. They might ask, “Why should you push certain sales against the wishes of a number of your members ?” That might sound ridiculous, but it was not so ridiculous as it might seem. They did not know, if they yielded to pressure in one instance, where it would end. He quite agreed with the statement that the Central Board had always had confidence in the guild, and he wanted to submit that the guild had never betrayed that confidence. That was his first Congress, although he had been a co-operator for more years than he could remember. He wanted to carry home in his report not so much the words which had

been said as the atmosphere of Congress, and he thought the atmosphere so far had been a very high one. There was one little objection to it, and he wanted, before the Congress closed, to see it removed. Reference had been made to a little rift in the lute, and he thought it was within the power of the Central Board to repair it. Nobody need be ashamed of having made a mistake, and he looked to the Central Board to put it right.

Mr. W. WRIGHT (Warrington), in seconding, said he wanted to emphasise the fact that this question was not a religious one. It was a civil question, and while he respected the religious views of every man and woman in the co-operative movement, he thought this was not a religious question in any particular. There was another point, and that was that some people had a conscientious objection to the question being introduced in the co-operative movement. There were other people who had conscientious objections to other things, but the majority ruled. His point was that, while they were broad and generous in giving and taking in regard to religious objections, they must say, as a democratic organisation, that the majority must rule.

Congress then adjourned for lunch, after which, the President said, the discussion regarding the Union and the guild would be continued.

SECOND DAY OF CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

DISCUSSION ON THE GUILD GRANT RESUMED.

The PRESIDENT, at the opening of the afternoon session, drew attention to the fact that Mr. Gidley (of Plymouth) had just passed away. He had been a member of the Central Board for many years.

THE GUILD GRANT.

Miss H. COOPER (Haslemere) then resumed the discussion on the grant to the Women's Guild. She would like to preface her remarks by saying that she had no animus against any religious body whatever. She would have spoken against the opposition to the guild had it come from her own religious body. Yesterday, they passed a resolution with great enthusiasm against the movement being captured by a political party. That day she hoped they would pass with equal enthusiasm a resolution against the movement being captured by a religious body. The heart of the question was contained in these words, which were quoted on a leaflet she held in her hand, and which were to the effect that the time had arrived for the Roman Catholics to come to the front in everything. She asked them to discuss the

subject dispassionately, and to keep it apart from any religious question. She urged the delegates to examine the methods which had been pursued in order to bring about this agitation against the Women's Guild. They were not democratic methods at all. They consisted in what in ordinary court of law language would be described as packing the jury. Delegates had been instructed to vote; they had been chosen because they were prepared to vote on a certain point alone. People had been put forward for office in their societies, not for the benefit of co-operation, but because they were well up on one question alone—the question of divorce. She asked them to read the open letter from Canon O'Kelly, which was quoted on the leaflet she held in her hand. She maintained that those methods were not democratic; they were a serious danger to any democratic body, and peculiarly dangerous to a movement like theirs. What other religious body would come next? The advice to Roman Catholics contained in that open letter was to the following effect:—"Don't argue. Don't use your reason—that would be dangerous. Don't listen to the argument on the other side; but just say 'I am against divorce.' If you do that, nobody can beat you." So far nobody had beaten them—the United Board had capitulated. The stick had been manufactured by an outside body. It had been handed to the United Board, and the people who gave it to them said: "If you don't use this stick to beat the women, we will beat you; and mind you it has got the right label attached to it—it has got the religious label." But her contention was that they could attach the religious label to any subject under the sun, and they would always confuse the issue. The grant had been stopped. They regretted it—she could not tell them how much; but she could assure them they were not associated with any shoddy agitation; they were out to clean the divorce laws of the country. They hated divorce as much as any Roman Catholic, and were opposed to it, as they were to the war or any other disruption.

Mr. F. MADDISON (Blackpool Union Printers) thought the lady who had just spoken had answered herself in the most complete manner. She said that this was an attempt by Catholics to capture the movement. He agreed that the capture of the movement by an outside body would be bad, that was why he was opposed to party politics being introduced. But what was the means and method of preventing outside bodies from meddling with the movement? It was to avoid outside questions. When a co-operator came into the movement he was not asked his views about divorce. It was an outside question. He, personally, would probably agree with the attitude of the guild on the subject of divorce; but it was an outside question. It was no use to argue there that it was not a religious question. That Congress was not competent to decide whether the question was a religious question or not. A religious question was that which was made so by a church. The Church of Rome, to which he did not belong, had declared that all questions relating to marriage and divorce belonged to the category of faith and morals. That claim had succeeded in getting the allegiance of tens of thousands of

their members—devout men and women, who differed in creed with the majority in that Congress. To these people the question was a religious question, and no vote of the Congress could make it anything else. He begged the Congress, for heaven's sake, to let the movement be one that did not make men or women, worshipping at their own altars, feel that their consciences were being outraged by an alien question being introduced into the movement. This was a business question, too. It had to do with the selling of tea and sugar and treacle and the rest of it. Co-operators were social reformers by trade, and they must be aware that in their great communities in Lancashire they had a great number of loyal co-operators to whom this was an offence. With every respect to the Women's Guild, there was nothing in it to make it of so much value as the disruption of the movement. The movement was here faced with the old menace. People were apparently not content with their co-operation; they wanted to use auxiliary bodies for causes which, good or bad, were not integral parts of the co-operative movement. The Central Board, in his opinion, had taken the right line, and that was that not in the name of co-operation and not with the money of co-operation should there be propagated views which were not specifically co-operative, and which offended the consciences of some of the men and women devoted to the principles of co-operation.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) did not intend to withhold his right to raise his voice for what he believed to be right, simply because he was a member of the Central Board. He would rather lose his position than be gagged. He supported the Guild resolution because he thought it would be a great misfortune to the co-operative movement if the work of the Women's Guild was curtailed by the action now proposed. He did not attach so much importance to the financial aspect, for the women would raise the money to keep themselves independent. He attached more importance to a board like theirs saying to the movement that they should not advocate a certain cause. He could not accept the statement that it was a religious question. They were governed, not by the law of the churches, but by the law of the land. It was on the Statute Book that people were entitled to divorce if a man or woman did some serious offence mentioned in the Act of Parliament. All that the Women's Guild was doing—they were not introducing any new principle—was simply trying to amend the law, so that it would be equitable for the bulk of the people. At the present time the divorce laws favoured the rich. Their object was not to favour the rich, or allow the rich to be favoured, but to give everyone equality of opportunity. That was all the guild was asking for. At the present time a woman tied to a brutish husband could not afford to go to the Divorce Court; she had to go to the Police Court and ask for a separation. Proceeding to discuss the question of divorce, the speaker was called to order by the President, and he resumed his seat.

Mrs. E. WIMHURST (Woolwich) had noticed that when men talked about religion they became very intolerant. The Women's Guild not only dis-

cussed co-operation ; the guild taught its members not only to be co-operators, it taught them to be citizens as well. Social reform consisted of things that merged together ; it could not be chopped up into sections. She was sorry to find that the speakers were received in a spirit of levity. The subject was a deep and serious one. The guilds were giving their lives to the work. She objected to the sneer that went up when the guild was referred to. Mr. Fleming had said that the salvation of the workers depended on the workers taking their destiny in their own hands. Would he refuse to the women the same right of salvation ? She believed the women would work out their own salvation, and if they did not agree with them, the men should leave them alone. They were asked to take it in a reasonable manner, and yet the mover of the resolution referred to wild cats. She objected to such remarks. They hoped to keep dignified. The seconder talked to them as though they were pet rabbits. He recognised that education was necessary, and was prepared to be generous with other people's money. In all sweet reasonableness the lion and the lamb were asked to lie down together ; without discussing which was the lion and which the lamb, she said they might do it if it were not for the interference of the wolf. Far deeper than the question of divorce, they were engaged in a world war for freedom of speech and action ; and yet in the co-operative movement, where they ought to be working together, they were fighting one another for freedom of speech. The question of divorce was secondary, but freedom of speech in the movement was vital.

The Rev. T. S. HUDSON (Warsop Vale) commenced by saying that if the Women's Guild thought they had been treated unfairly, he was there to say that he sent the letter out. He was not ashamed of it. There was nothing personal in the letter, otherwise he would have signed it. The reason it was not signed was because he did not want to advertise himself. The lady who mentioned the letter said it was engineered, but he said " I did it on my own." He was not a proud man, and if they wanted to help him he was there. Proceeding, he said he was married, and it was because he was married and respected women that he was against bringing in this divorce question, because he was convinced that if divorce were made easier, the women stood to lose every time. They did not want to discuss divorce—whether it was right or wrong—inside the co-operative movement. This agitation had been blamed on their Roman Catholic brethren, but 95 per cent of the Church of England people stood shoulder to shoulder with them. It might be the law, but he might tell them that 99 per cent of the clergy of England were prepared to go to prison if the law compelled them to marry divorced persons. He referred to the fact that when the Divorce Law Commission issued its report, a leading article on the subject was published in the *Co-operative News*. He wrote to the editor, who replied to the effect that he could not open the columns of the *Co-operative News* to a discussion on divorce law reform. He respected the editor for that decision, but he (the editor) had had his article, and if it was not right for the question to be

discussed in the *News*, it was not right for an article to be published regarding it. They could not get the outside public to discriminate between the Co-operative Union and the Women's Guild, or the Wholesale Society. He came across a vast body of opinion against the movement, and they would insist, no matter what he said, in identifying the whole movement with this question. Whatever they did, they must keep religious bickerings and squabbles out of the co-operative movement, because there was nothing that would tear any organisation to pieces so soon as that.

Mr. J. PENNY (Planet Mutual Insurance, Sheffield) said on this occasion he would be speaking and voting with the majority. There were four propositions before them. Personally, he felt they could unanimously support the Central Board proposition, providing the Warrington amendment was added. It seemed that they were taking the Women's Guild proposition as an amendment. It was no amendment, nor was the Eccles proposition. He thought they should take the proposition of the Central Board as a resolution. They could vote for that, and then they could vote for either the Women's Guild or the Eccles proposition. The Central Board proposition was that they had a right to give or withhold subscriptions to other organisations, whether they were doing good work or otherwise. That was a democratic principle. He would ask the Congress to vote for that proposition. Then they came to the position that the Central Board were withholding a grant from the Women's Guild. On what grounds? The grounds were insufficient. The work of the Women's Guild had been regarded as generally good, yet, because the question of divorce law reform had been introduced as an adjunct to their work, the grant had been withheld. That position was wrong. It was not a religious question; it was a question of democracy. The co-operative movement did not stand merely for selling sugar and treacle; it was to uphold democratic principles, and divorce law reform was simply to establish equality between man and woman. That was a fundamental co-operative principle. If they were going to withhold this grant from the Women's Guild, what was going to happen? They were going to have the Women's Guild and the Men's Guild confined. He asked the Congress, while voting for the Central Board resolution with the Warrington amendment, also to vote for the proposition of the Women's Guild.

At this stage there were cries of "Vote."

The PRESIDENT said he had the names of speakers to follow, and he suggested they should have one or two from the platform and one or two from the body of the hall.

Miss CATHERINE WEBB (Permanent Building Society), speaking from the platform, said she felt she might be allowed to introduce a new note into the discussion. She wanted to appeal to them on personal grounds. She stood that day as the oldest member of the Women's Guild in that hall; she was a member from the beginning, before there was a branch, and she had been in close touch with its work from then till now. She thought she could also say without egotism that she knew as well as anybody in the room

what were the broad principles of co-operation ; what was the sound policy on which it ought to be run. She appealed to Congress to support the Central Board by supporting the resolution of the Women's Guild. She wanted them to support the Central Board in resisting the encroachment of any outside dictation. She did not say that on religious grounds. She was with those who did not wish any outside party to come into the co-operative movement. She did not wish for any schism to come in, and she would ask them, therefore, to help the Board to repair its initial mistake by letting in an outside body. Last year, Congress supported the Women's Guild by accepting their report. The present situation had been brought about by the intervention of a separate body. That body came to the Central Board and the Central Board accepted them. There a mistake was made. But she thought that with the help of Congress they could clear the way and prepare for a fair and proper discussion inside the movement as to what was the proper policy for co-operators. If they allowed this outside body to come in the movement, they would strike a dagger into the very heart of their democratic organisation ; they would rend it with that dagger. She advised them not to strike that day. She appealed for a fair chance to consider in all fairness as co-operators what was the right policy to pursue.

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton) said it seemed to him they were getting away from the right point. He was a co-operator out and out, and he wanted no outside organisation to come in and capture the movement. If the resolution of the Women's Guild was carried that was tantamount to a method by which the Women's Guild were acting to capture the movement. He would say without the slightest hesitation that no organisation that was subservient to the Co-operative Union, or the movement, had a right to speak to the outside world, and say that this or that was the co-operative opinion. If they allowed the Women's Guild to go out in that manner, it was equivalent to saying that the women could go out and do as they liked and that be accepted as the opinion of the co-operative movement. Any organisation under the Co-operative Union must submit and practise only what the co-operative movement as a whole told Congress what to practise. The Co-operative Union and the Congress formed the mouthpiece of the movement.

At this stage there were cries of "Vote."

The PRESIDENT, however, thought the matter should have a fair and full discussion. They, as a Central Board, had no axe to grind in regard to the subject. They wanted to have a full, fair, and frank discussion. Should they go till three o'clock ?

Cries of "Vote, vote."

The PRESIDENT remarked that they ought to allow those to speak who had been promised to do so.

Several delegates called "Yes," and others "No."

The PRESIDENT : Well, I am going to give my casting vote, and the discussion will go on till three o'clock.

Mr. W. E. WOOD (Coventry) said they must remember that, whatever their decision was, it was going to be so far-reaching that there was no one there to tell where it was going to stop. They had to decide whether the United Board had done right or wrong. He thought they had done wrong. But there was only one body to decide, and that was the Congress. Secondly, they had to decide whether sectarianism should triumph and interfere with their movement. He thought Congress was in favour of repudiating any interference from outside. The Women's Guild—which was an organisation of 32,000 members—had decided in democratic assembly what their policy should be. What more could they decide? It was a woman's question, and women should be the ones to decide whether it was right or wrong.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (Agricultural and Horticultural Association) said he would like to clear up one or two points about which there seemed to be a danger of confusion of ideas. He went farther than his friend Mr. Maddison. He was in favour of divorce reform as advocated by the Women's Guild, but he was entirely opposed to bringing it in as an item in an official co-operative programme. They saw the two things were perfectly distinct, but then the Women's Guild said, "How about our independence?" What was the position of the guild in the movement? It was not the position of an independent body like the Cobden Club or the Primrose League. It was a body taking the co-operative name, was claiming to take part in joint co-operative funds, and to claim representation on official co-operative committees. But the guild said, "We are a part of the co-operative movement and claim to be represented." He, however, contended they could not "claim co-operative money and name and representation in all our activities without they are willing to accept the corresponding responsibilities which went with power." The first responsibility was that they should accept the decisions of the representative co-operative body as to what was and what was not to be publicly advocated in the name and with the influence of co-operation. Democracy, if it meant anything, meant that after they had polled the whole of the co-operative constituency and elected from all parts of the United Kingdom their co-operative board they should allow them to say in any section what were the limits of co-operative declaration before the public. Then came the question of Catholic dictation. It was said they must resent Catholic dictation, but the Catholics were not asking them to take this or that view of divorce. The men who came to them as Catholics were also members of the co-operative movement; they were a section of the co-operative movement and they did not say "Take our view and stop and go against this co-operative legislation in Parliament." They simply respected "our position" and said a state of affairs had arisen which they could not conscientiously accept and work with them. If they refused that reasonable request of the Catholics they could no longer say their movement was an inclusive one. They would have to admit that it was an exclusive movement, that Protestant, Catholic, and Dissenter could no longer remain

working together as co-operators, and the moment it became that they necessarily forced them out. Although the co-operators of England were in a large majority Protestant they must remember that in the neighbouring country of Ireland the majority of co-operators were Catholic; and if they wanted a united movement and an inclusive movement, and if they desired England and Ireland to work together, they must not initiate something which gave offence to the consciences of those people. He pleaded for the carrying of the just resolution of the Central Board. It was a fair claim. The Central Board wanted to keep the movement inclusive, keep it impartial, fair, and free from danger. They had a right to ask "for your confidence in this matter."

Mr. G. HAYHURST (Co-operative Wholesale Society) said the issue, even speaking from "our point of view," was a very serious one indeed. Had the delegates taken the suggestion of Miss Webb or Mr. Penny, they would have found themselves between Tweedledee and Tweedledum. For this reason they had elected a board of about eighty men; they had gone into the matter very carefully; they had studied the question in all its phases and they came before them to-day and said, "After we have seriously considered this matter we recommend this to Congress for adoption." If they did not accept that recommendation, what happened? It practically meant a vote of censure on each member of that board in spite of what a single one might say. They either accepted the Congress report or rejected it. Mr. Hayhurst then proceeded to tell a story of an officer on the docks who arrested a boy for pilfering, and not wishing to take him to the police station, and still desirous of teaching him a lesson, locked him up in his cabin. He released the boy later and warned him of the consequences of a repetition of his conduct. The boy promised not to offend again, but getting fifty yards away he shouted to the officer, "But I've eaten your dinner." If the guild amendment was carried "you will be in exactly the same position." Why should there be disharmony between the Union and the Women's Guild? They could both pay compliments to each other. They of the Wholesale Society's Board—and the Wholesale Society was no mean supporter of the guild—knew the seriousness of the campaign begun by the Women's Guild, and "you should support the United Board by your efforts." The co-operative movement in Lancashire was in danger. "We know it and you would know it if you came inside Balloon Street." His advice to them was that they should keep the movement clear of all politics and religion. They were working for co-operation; and surely in the name of reason there were a thousand and one economic subjects in civil life which could be taken hold of without introducing politics or religion into the movement.

Mr. R. FLEMING, in replying, said they had had, not a discussion but a very long and full series of speeches. A great deal of matter had been introduced which he thought was extraneous. He wanted to make it quite clear that the Central Board were not briefed for the Catholic Federation. They were seeking to act with impartiality and fairness between

all sections of the movement. He quoted the rule which stated that the control of the disposal of the funds of the Union should be "according to its rules, by the United Board, subject to any resolution of Congress or of the Central Board." He also quoted the objects of the Union, which described the Co-operative Union as a corporate body, and which said that those who were brought into membership were brought together and united in accordance with a certain constitution. That constitution was the registered rules of the Union. He quoted, further, the objects of the Union and declared that he could not see by what system of interpretation that could be construed so as to include divorce reform. It was absurd to say that this was not a religious question. It was a religious question to Catholics, to many Non-conformists, and others. It was a religious question; and it was also a non-co-operative question which was beside the scope and work of the Union. If they had a number of Jews in a society they would object to getting goods from a grocery store we had begun. The present issue was not a case like that which would affect the commercial business of the movement. He asked the Congress to consider the effect of this question in Ireland. Two months ago they had a society organised there and every shareholder of that society was a Catholic. The secretary of that society—the parish priest—asked him round, and after some talk the priest quoted a statement of his: "Co-operation imposes no religious or political test. Its ranks are open to men of every creed and class and party." The priest then referred to the divorce campaign and remonstrated with him, saying: "Three months ago you got me to join the Co-operative Union. How can I stand at the altar and plead for the sacredness of the marriage bond and urge the people to join the Co-operative Union?"

Mr. Fleming's time being exhausted,

The PRESIDENT proceeded to put the resolutions to the Congress, the votes being taken by card. The guild amendment (moved by Mrs. Founds) was put against the Central Board's resolution, when there voted—For the Guild amendment, 796: for the Central Board resolution, 1,430.

The PRESIDENT, having declared that the Central Board resolution was carried, was about to put the Eccles amendment.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Co-operative Newspaper Society) suggested that in view of the figures announced, Eccles should withdraw, but Mr. EVANS (Eccles) said he had no authority to withdraw. A show of hands was then taken and the Eccles amendment was declared lost, as also was the Warrington amendment, after a show of hands had been similarly called for.

The Central Board's resolution was then put to the Congress as a substantive motion, and amid applause was declared carried.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS OF RULES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY introduced the proposed alteration to Rule 24, substituting a membership of six for five of the South-Western Sectional Board. That, he said, put them on the same level as the Western Section.

This was unanimously agreed to, and it was announced that it would come into operation in the next Congress year.

On the amendments sent in by the Bristol, Twerton, Weston-super-Mare, and Bridgwater, &c., societies, the GENERAL SECRETARY announced that they had a special rule providing for district representation and the method by which it should be carried out. It had, therefore, been suggested to the societies that they should withdraw the proposed alteration and that the Board should consider the matter in the coming Congress year.

Mr. MARKS (Bristol) said they were prepared to fall in with the suggestion. They were desirous that the matter should be dealt with during the present year so as to avoid the anomaly of the last Congress period, when the representation of the South-Western Section was in the hands of one large society. They were willing to withdraw the proposed amendment, if the matter could be dealt with in the present Congress year.

Mr. GEORGE THORPE, J.P., introduced by the President as an ex-president of Congress, as well as a Co-operative Wholesale Society director, then read his paper on "Can the Co-operative Movement Control the Output and Prices of Commodities?"

Can the Co-operative Movement Govern the Output and Price of Commodities?

BY GEORGE THORPE, J.P. (Dewsbury).

There is no transaction in the whole realm of nature known to man that ever took place, or ever can, without a price of some kind being attached. The study of price is the study of a law of nature, that vitally and profoundly affects in every shape and form the destiny of the human race. A few hours given to the consideration of that law will bring to each person a wealth of illustration that is truly astonishing. In fact, price has been, and is at the bottom, the main factor in the movement of men and nations towards an objective, which yields them at less cost the benefits and privileges of life that were not formerly theirs. Broadly speaking, other things being equal, the progress of the people has largely depended, and does to-day depend, on prices.

An inquiry into the causes which send prices up or down means an inquiry into the intrinsic values of men's actions, as well as the commodities they produce, because we cannot conceive

of the former as being inseparable from the latter. For instance, what was the intrinsic value of a law that prohibited the importation of wheat until home-grown wheat had reached a price of eighty shillings per quarter to the owner of the wheat, and to the people who were starving for it? What is the intrinsic value of a law that permits a limited class of the people to destroy millions of tons of food in the manufacture of an article that destroys more human lives than the three "great scourges of war, pestilence, and famine?" It is a field of inquiry that neither men nor nations can afford to neglect, that wish to reach a high and maintain a permanent civilisation. Shall we not, then, surely conclude that prices and intrinsic values are of first importance in all the ramifications of life?

Prices sometimes fluctuate within a very narrow range, sometimes in a rather extended one, as will be shown later on; while one article or commodity in a number will remain stationary, and another fluctuate violently. Hence it is necessary to have some machinery or device that will register and keep a correct record of these varying fluctuations, so that we might easily compare the purchasing power of the sovereign in 1900 with that in 1910. From such a comparison we should be able to ascertain, approximately, the value of real wages between the years named. Such machinery or device has been in existence for a long term of years, enabling us not only to ascertain the average price of a quarter of wheat during each year for 115 years, but the varying price of each year between 1801 and 1915. It shows that the average price per quarter of wheat in 1812 was 126s. 6d., which is the highest recorded in the 115 years, while it records the average during the same period and the lowest price to be 22s. 10d. for 1894. Not only does it do that, but it gives the exchange values of other commodities in relation to wheat, and also, in some degree, the causes which lead to an advance in prices or otherwise. In short, it is an indicator of the social life, particularly of the poor people.

Part of this machinery is what is known as an index number, which represents the average of the total prices each commodity has undergone in a month, a year, or a term of years. Goods are sold at so much per yard, so much per cwt., so much per ton;

while cattle and sheep are sold at so much per head, &c. Like everything else, an index number must have a unit for comparison, hence the figure 100 is taken for that purpose. Suppose, now, we buy £100 worth of goods to-day; a month following we buy a similar class of goods and they cost us £102; we should say their cost had gone up 2 per cent, or *vice versa*, as the case may be. But some of the articles bought under the head of £102 might be less in cost than those bought under the head of £100, which is often true. Equally, on the other hand, every article enumerated in the index number is of relative importance to the consumer. Say, by way of illustration, that wheat to-day is 100s. a quarter, a week hence its price is 120s.; and say, by way of comparison, that one of the spices has gone up 50 per cent; from this comparison it is easily realised that the poor working man would be much worse off with the advance in the price of wheat than with the advance in the price of one of the spices. The moral is, examine the relative values of the commodities enumerated.

Just one illustration of the method of working of an index number. Let us take the two years of comparison of 1905 and 1912, and, remembering our unit of 100 as the standard for comparison, say wheat cost 100s. a quarter for 1905, and 116s. for 1912, that would mean wheat had risen in price 16 per cent; beef 7, or 107; lard in the meantime has fallen 14 per cent, and would now be represented by the figure 86, butter 125, barley 92, mutton 111, bacon 98, cheese 112, coffee 94, sugar 181, rice 120, potatoes 80. These figures added give a total of 1,322; divide the number by 12, which corresponds to the number of commodities chosen, and you get as a quotient the figure of 110 in round numbers, which represents an advance in 1912 of 10 per cent on the prices ruling for similar commodities in 1905. Index numbers are of great value to a large working-class population when prices are rising year after year and wages remaining stationary.

Gold is now practically adopted by nearly all nations as a standard or measure of value of commodities, and, like them, is subject to fluctuations, and, therefore, varies in purchasing power. We are told that one ounce of gold now, under normal conditions, will purchase nearly two and a half quarters of wheat, whereas a

similar amount of it exchanged for ten quarters in the fourteenth century, so that its purchasing power to-day has been reduced to one-fourth its value of the time referred to. Hence it is hardly impossible to attach too much importance to the rise and fall in its value, because it opens up so many interests that materially affect the well-being of those who have little to spend of it, in relation to their requirements.

It has often been alleged that there are far more difficulties to overcome in production than in distribution. I have never shared this view to anything like the same extent as some of my co-operative friends, because, like distribution, unless you have machinery up to date, and well and economically arranged, and behind it all a sound organiser, you cannot expect its productions to satisfactorily compete with others where such conditions obtain. A factory well equipped, and no lack of capital behind it, always succeeds, because its own goods create their own market. Time, I know, is an element in the process; yet style, get up, quality, and price are all propagandist agents in market formations.

Let us now assume that our factory is up to date, with the best possible management in control. It will then easily be realised that it is one thing for a factory producing a certain line of goods to have the whole world for its market, and another thing for one to be more or less limited by an organised membership, that has by rule circumscribed its sales. If the organised membership is large, then it will require large factories to supply it with goods; and, of course, the contrary follows. Then, again, the demand on such factories will depend on the loyalty and the purchasing power of its members. If that power is low and its loyalty not robust, the demand corresponds, and so do the factories. It will, therefore, be readily conceded that output depends on the number of members in the organisation, the extent of their loyalty and purchasing power, as to what control they can exercise over the output of a nation, and regulate prices accordingly. Nevertheless, I am thoroughly convinced that if the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the productive federation factories had not been in existence, prices for the goods they manufacture would have been higher

to-day than they are for the goods they collectively produce ; and certainly more than one monopoly has failed to be established because of their existence.

The population of the United Kingdom is, roughly, 46,000,000, and the membership of the movement at the end of 1913 was 2,974,272, or less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the population. I shall be told, from the number of members given in the return, there must be 12,000,000 associated with the movement. Taking all into consideration, if we say there is one co-operator in every four of the population, we cannot be far out in the estimate. Of course, four outside to one in must be taken as a factor influencing output and control of prices. Incidentally, in passing, note the fact that the average purchase per head in 1904 was £28. 13s. ; for 1913, £28. 18s., notwithstanding the increase in prices between the years named.

There is much to be desired in the direction of what I will call intensive purchasing power within the movement, as indicated by the figures above. A detailed analysis of a few of the productive industries the movement is engaged in, and the relation they bear to the general output of the nation, is essential to an approximate appreciation of what the movement is doing to influence output and price.

Take the manufacture of cotton goods by the movement at a very liberal estimate of £1,000,000 per annum. The value of raw cotton imported into the United Kingdom in 1911 was £71,155,514, of which £10,217,137 was re-exported, leaving £60,435,261 for manufacturing purposes. The value of our cotton exports the same year amounted to over £120,000,000. During the same year the value of woollens and related fabrics exported was £52,819,109. Making the same liberal allowance of £1,000,000 for similar goods produced by the movement, we at once realise that our power to govern output and control prices is very feeble, if not negligible. In the world of iron and steel, and many other industries, the movement's influence is *nil*. As a further illustration, take that of land owning and farming, and ask what our influence is there, judged by the acres owned and the produce obtained from them ; yet the Co-operative Wholesale Society's

flour mills converted into flour more than 25 per cent of what was equivalent in 1914 to the British wheat crop for 1913.

The total productions of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and that of the productive federation for 1913 was valued at £14,355,135, while the value of the entire productions of our mines, quarries, mills, factories, and workshops, apart from the raw materials used, was £712,000,000. So it is clearly seen that the productions of the three organisations is but infinitesimal in comparison with the national productions of 1907, and even if we take the retail sales for 1913, amounting to £85,964,823, it is less than $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the larger item named.

The movement had 84,350 distributive and 59,804 productive employés at the close of 1913, making a total of 144,154. The capital invested in the movement at the same period was £54,919,381. Both these items are very small in relation to national employment and national capital, and naturally have a corresponding influence on output and prices. But national employment and capital are made up of so many units, each influencing specifically in varying degrees, both in regard to output and prices, the particular trade to which they are applied. By way of illustration of this latter point, let us suppose that a society has a membership of 20,000, each of whom spends on the average 11s. per week, which would mean an annual turnover of £572,000. Let us further assume that the management has agreed to sell at same prices as the average shopkeeper in the town, and that the members have been educated up to the standard of accepting whatever is left after all expenses have been paid, as a satisfactory dividend or profit on the business. Say the profit is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; that the capital expenditure of the society has been wisely laid out; that its operations are conducted on sound economic lines. Here, then, you have four units, or a fourfold force—membership, profit, a wise capital expenditure, and economic management—all co-operating together, the resultant being a successful institution, and, as a natural consequence, a controller of output and a regulator of price, so far as allied trades are concerned. Therefore we must not conclude that, because the

co-operative movement is somewhat small in relation to national employment and capital, in specific operations it cannot successfully influence both output and price; if we do, our conclusion would be wrong, as it is known to the writer of this paper, and to others similarly situated, that in the manufacture of certain commodities not only has price been kept down by co-operators, but the output of similar products manufactured by others has been materially restricted. Hence we may say with perfect truth that, given the conditions stated above, you set in motion a machine which saves wealth by reducing waste to a minimum, and creates a set of circumstances which give to men and women increased power over their lives, by increasing their power of choice, that enables them to live in a higher plane of civilisation than they have hitherto done. This truth is so obvious to all thinking people that argument and illustration would be superfluous.

What are then the essential conditions that aid output and give the power to modify and control prices of any particular manufactured product? One is the ownership of raw material in sufficient quantities to meet the demand; another is that such material has not to pass through so many hands before it is transformed into the finished article. One company has nominally acquired 14,000,000 acres of land as a gathering ground for raw material used in its factories, which are being established in nearly every country in the world. It has also bought up other firms in the same business. It hopes and expects in this way, by owning large tracts of raw material and by a reduction in the number of competitors, to limit the operations of those already in the field, by increasing its own output and adjusting prices accordingly. Another company, acting on the same principle as the one mentioned, has a subscribed capital of £15,000,000. Its sales for the year ending 1913 were £80,000,000. It has 35,000 employes, whose working hours are 40 per week. The company established in 1907 an employes' benefit association, and the number of members enrolled in 1913 was 27,000; besides, during its existence, it has contributed £34,000 towards its expenses. All its employes are subject to medical examination. The average rate of profit in company

No. 1 has for many years been 15 per cent ; in No. 2, 7 per cent. Judging by the speeches made at each annual meeting by the respective chairmen, both are model employers in the best sense of that word. The reason or cause of their success is to be found in the fact of the quality of their products, and largely the control each has over the raw materials which are transformed, together with the price at which they are sold. The moral, then, is for co-operators to own raw material, transform it economically, distribute accordingly, and, by an ever increasing membership and intensive purchasing, control of output and prices will follow as these conditions are observed.

Now, the movement is making progress so far as numbers are concerned. In 1904, the membership was 2,169,801 ; in 1913, 2,974,292—an increase of 804,491 in ten years ; while the difference in purchases per member per annum only shows an increase of five shillings, or a little over a penny per week per member, between the times referred to. Let me illustrate this point by taking the purchases of the members of four societies, whose membership averaged 18,433 in 1903 ; in 1913, 24,078. The average purchase per member per week in 1903 was 11s. 0½d. ; in 1913, 10s. 11d. ; which means to say that the membership has increased by 5,643, and the purchases per member have actually decreased, in the societies under review. Taking the whole movement, practically, we can say that the ratio between increase in membership and actual purchases per member per week is the same in 1913 as in 1904.

Can any substantial reason be given why the ratio has not been varied for so long a time ? Can any reason be assigned why the purchases per member are not 40 per cent more between the periods compared ? That there is a cause or causes cannot be denied, because practical experience tells us that there is a margin left after rent has been paid that goes elsewhere than into the exchequer of the society for goods and commodities which it has on its shelves and counters ; and, of course, as this margin is great or small, so is the power of the society to increase its own output or curtail that of its competitors, by a reduction of its prices and by a reduction of its expenses. And shall I not venture

to say that to meet that 40 per cent increase the movement, as a whole, would require, distributively, few additions to its plant and buildings.

The motive underlying trusts, syndicates, amalgamations, and agreements not to sell below a certain price, is to lessen expense and improve profits. Such combinations succeed to a greater or less extent as they corner raw material and reduce opposition to a minimum. Several of these exist in the United Kingdom, and govern output and control prices.

It would seem, from a study of prices for at least one hundred years, that these rise and fall in cycles. From 1821 to 1825, and from 1846 to 1850, prices fell 25 per cent. Of course, there were times when they rose during the period, but they were few. From 1850 to 1874 prices were rising, not of every article of consumption, inasmuch as rice fell 12 per cent, sugar 7, maize 4, flour 3, wheat increased 6 per cent, mutton 34, beef 55, butter 40, cotton 52, leather 66, pig iron 60, coal 100. From 1874 to 1896 prices were falling, sugar fell 58 per cent, tea 54, wheat 51, wool 50, flour 41, beef 29, mutton 25, butter 25; the average fall being 40 per cent from 1875 to 1898. From the latter period to 1910 the average prices rose 25 per cent, and in many cases the rise continues.

The output of gold from 1801 to 1810 averaged 10 tons a year. The output of gold in 1851 was 134 tons; in 1910, 712 tons. Gold has depreciated 20 per cent in its average purchasing power of a good number of commodities; but as to how far its depreciation is a cause of the rise in prices does not fall within my province here to examine. One thing is certain, that each commodity has a history, and the study of that history will reveal the cause or causes that have contributed to the rise or fall in its price.

In conclusion, let me summarise the contents of this paper:—

1. That the study of price is the study of a law of nature.
2. Index numbers approximately indicate the amount of the rise and fall in prices, and should be often resorted to, by working men in particular, to test the real value of wages.
3. That the co-operative movement, as a whole, cannot govern output or control prices, because the number of its members is

as one to four, and its want of loyalty is a further weakness in that direction.

4. That where there is a large distributive society working under the conditions named in this paper, it can and does modify output and to that extent control prices.

5. That productive co-operation in the manufacture of certain commodities already influences output and keeps prices down.

6. Co-operators must own, gather, and create their own raw material, as far as possible; and when they have succeeded in doing that, then they are a long way on the road towards governing output and controlling prices.

THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (Agricultural and Horticultural Association) thought they could not allow a paper so full of information, carefully got together and carefully digested, to pass without recognition. He suggested that the paper might be printed separately for consideration by co-operators generally. He thought, also, it was due to Mr. Thorpe to consider the conclusions at which he had arrived. They were hopeful, but cautious. He showed them that they were still a very long way from obtaining complete, or even substantial, control over prices; but he also showed that they had travelled a long way from the point when they had no control over prices. Throughout the whole of the district of South Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, and North Cheshire, the cash purchasing power of the working classes was largely co-operative, and there they had obtained almost a control over the prices of commodities. Their large factories had obtained, to a large extent, control of the national markets. They had to extend, but very cautiously, step by step. He agreed with Mr. Thorpe that in production they had shown they could to a great extent, not control, but influence output and prices. But what he was anxious to see—and he hoped he would have Mr. Thorpe with him in this—was that they should come to some understanding by which the whole forces of the productive side of the movement could work together, at all events so far as they were agreed. He would like the boot and shoe societies to combine with the boot and shoe factories of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies to establish their own factories for leather, tapes, elastic, and all the necessary materials for the making of boots and shoes. Was there any reason why, because they differed in their general principles, that they should not combine for that purpose. Then take the printing departments of the Wholesale Societies, and all the printing societies throughout the kingdom. There they had the possibility of a combination which would enable at least one kind of paper mill to be successful. Mr. Thorpe had put them under an obligation by the facts and figures

he had got together, and one thing the Wholesale Society might do at once was to collate these statistics and make them public.

Mr. T. MASON (Uppertown), who was indistinctly heard at the reporters' table, was told by the President : " We don't want your plan of land nationalisation at the moment."

Mr. J. JARMAN (Warrington) said their thanks were due to Mr. Thorpe for his paper and for his figures. He wanted, however, to introduce a practical note, based on the figures, into the discussion—something they all needed to have and to take away with them. He had in mind the average weekly purchases of their members. That was practically the thing they had to face. They were told that the average worked out at about 11s. per week, and Mr. Thorpe could not see, and they could not see, that that was the fullest extent of the support their members could give them. But the fact remained that that figure represented the full support their members did give them. Want of loyalty was their weakness. It was not a bit of use saying to the Wholesale Society or the productive societies, " Go and purchase coal mines, go and purchase lands and grow wheat, and go out to Ceylon and grow tea," and then when they had done so, and paid the best wages to employés, give their trade to the private trader because he happened to be ½d. in the £1 cheaper. They must be practical in this matter ; they must be loyal ; and so long as they were not prepared to guarantee their trade in any given commodity, they could hardly expect the Wholesale Society to go sufficiently into the manufacturing business or sufficiently in the direction of securing the raw material. They had the question of coal mines, but if the Wholesale Society purchased a coal mine and offered societies coal at 15s. a ton, and a private company offered societies coal at 1s. a ton less, the probability was they would take the coal of the private company and leave the Wholesale Society to look after itself. Unless they were prepared to guarantee the trade, he was afraid they were not going very far in relation to production.

Mr. J. PRYOR (Sidmouth) hoped the Union would reprint the paper and have it sent out to the district associations for full discussion. The main point of the paper hinged on the statement in the report. There they had described two companies, and if they read between the lines they would see that one was themselves and the other somebody else. These two companies made 7 and 15 per cent profit respectively. They were told that there was a difference in the quality of the products. The quality of the products of the company that was satisfied with 7 per cent was as good as the quality of the other. They wanted to get more at the control of the raw material, but the institution they had set up should receive their loyal support. The Co-operative Wholesale Society and the productive societies should be shown that co-operators believed in co-operatively produced materials by their insistence on them and nothing else. They knew the conditions under which the articles were produced, and should refuse to exhibit the goods of private firms in preference to their own. There was need of greater loyalty within the movement.

Mr. H. ROTHERY (Scar Wood Coal) thought all should become missionaries, going into the mills and workshops to tell the workers to be loyal to co-operation. It was no good making a noise at Congress and discussing papers unless the committee-men of societies were more loyal to their stores and factories.

Mr. A. E. WONNACOTT (Plymouth) said the paper was a practical one, worthy of study on the part of the movement. They had heard much about the loyalty of societies to the Wholesale; they also wanted the loyalty of the Wholesale to societies. He hoped the directors of the Wholesale Society would read the paper and study and act upon it.

Mr. J. W. WALKER (Slaithwaite) observed that he looked upon the co-operative movement as the only movement whereby mankind could work out its own salvation; as members of trade unions, they realised more fully, day by day, that it was the only weapon they needed regarding conditions of labour and the control of the prices of the commodities they used. The matter was in the hands of the workers of the country. Not only members of societies, but the Wholesale Societies themselves, should take a lead to utilise the opportunities of propaganda and advertisement. Other people advertised in a way that induced the people to buy their goods. If they wanted to beat the enemy, as they wanted to beat the Germans, they would have to use the weapons similarly used by the enemy. If they could only practise what they were always talking about, what a vast difference they could make. There were a number of societies in the kingdom that could not deal with every commodity the members consumed. What was to be done? These societies, instead of seeking the help of neighbouring societies, or that of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies' depôts, often advised their members to purchase goods from multiple stores rather than get goods of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies.

Mr. S. H. BROWN (Nottingham) argued that Mr. Thorpe was wrong in saying that gold was subject to fluctuation. There was one gold standard of gold in this country, and it seemed to be past the mark to talk about the standard fluctuating in value. The value of gold in purchasing flour or other commodities might and did fluctuate, but the standard of gold itself remained unchangeable in this country.

Mrs. E. WIMHURST (Woolwich) remarked that the Woolwich Society was willing to print the paper read by Mr. Thorpe and circulate it among the members. She thought that other societies might carry out that suggestion. They had, she said, been talking during Congress about propaganda work, and she reminded Congress that propaganda was pursued by the Women's Guild in such ways, for instance, as in the "push-the-sales" campaign; they not only sent speakers up and down the country advocating that, but they had had exhibitions and given prizes for the best cooking of Co-operative Wholesale Societies' productions. In other ways they acted as propagandists, and they did the work voluntarily. They were not working for pay. There occurred the following passage in Mr. Thorpe's paper:—

"What is the intrinsic value of a law that permits a limited class of the people to destroy millions of tons of food in the manufacture of an article that destroys more human lives than the three 'great scourges of war, pestilence, and famine?' " She wanted to know what was the meaning of that.

Mr. J. BAYNE (Co-operative Newspaper) said there were some things that they, as co-operators, had great difficulty in doing, but there were others which they could control to a great extent, and he instanced the average purchases, which amounted to 10s. 11d. per member per week. That was a shame to the co-operative movement. He suggested that it was necessary for members to be more consistent in their purchases. Another point touched on by Mr. Greening was that the two Wholesale Societies and the productive societies might combine with a view to procuring raw materials. He (the speaker) did not know much about the co-partnership societies, but he did know something of the Wholesale Societies, and he knew that they could do a great deal more if they were united. The Co-operative Wholesale Society sent a deputation to West Africa, and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society sent a deputation. Why could not these two deputations have gone together? He felt that that would revolutionise the productive societies, and also assist in getting possession of the raw materials mentioned by Mr. Thorpe. He believed that the action of the United Board in appointing an adviser of studies at Holyoake House would bring about the publication of the statistics referred to. He trusted that they, as co-operators, would be loyal to their distributive societies, and that the two Wholesale Societies would come more in connection with one another in advancing production.

Mr. THORPE, in replying to the criticisms, thanked the delegates very cordially for the way in which they had received his paper. He was disappointed with the criticism of his paper—he expected a great deal more criticism, especially on some points. He said there had been three objections urged against his paper, and they had been urged by Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown seemed to think that the study of prices was not a study of a law of nature. Mr. Brown had been thinking in cash, and anybody who did that would be wrong, as Mr. Brown was wrong. A sovereign was simply a token representing the effort a man had put forth to receive it. Anybody who regarded the sovereign a man had to spend, not as cash, but as representing effort, would see that the study of prices was a study of the law of nature. Mr. Brown seemed to think that gold did not vary. An ounce of bullion stood at £3. 17s. 9d., and never varied except when it was coined, when its value was £3. 17s. 10½d. But gold was subject to the law of supply and demand, and there it varied like other commodities. Speaking of the factories, Mr. Thorpe went on to say that he could not speak for the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society or the co-partnership societies, but the Co-operative Wholesale Society could not sell outside its membership, and the progress of the Co-operative Wholesale Society would therefore depend upon the membership. After being on the Wholesale Board for seventeen

years, he could say that if they got up a good article, and put it on the market at a proper price, it would go—it would create its own market. Replying to Mrs. Wimhurst's question, he said he knew she was connected with the temperance movement, the same as he was. Quoting Mr. Lloyd George, he stated that in 1913 they had destroyed some 2,000,014 tons of grain, sugar, and rice in the manufacture of intoxicating drinks. In regard to intrinsic values, he pointed out that if he were a smoker, a pound of tobacco would cost him about 4s., but he could buy, even to-day, twelve pounds of sugar for 4s. What was the intrinsic value of the pound of tobacco compared with twelve pounds of sugar? In conclusion, Mr. Thorpe mentioned the Survey Committee, which wanted the Wholesales and other bodies to join. He would like to suggest to the United Board that he would like them to sit down, compile and print in the annual report statistics showing the rise or fall of commodities during the twelve months between one Congress and another.

The GENERAL SECRETARY, referring to Mrs. Wimhurst's suggestion that the Woolwich Society might print that paper and circulate it, stated that the Co-operative Union had the paper in type, and a copy would be sent to every society. Societies that wanted copies before the Congress report was issued should communicate with the office. After making several announcements, Mr. Whitehead mentioned that the Parliamentary Committee had, during the Congress, discussed the question of the rise in prices. The committee, at the meeting on Monday night, decided to ask all societies to support them in their efforts to secure prompt action on the part of the Government. A circular giving particulars of the appeal they proposed to make to Members of Parliament and to the Government would be issued, and delegates were asked to urge their committees to help the Parliamentary Committee.

At this stage the Congress adjourned for the day.





FINAL SITTING OF CONGRESS.



WEDNESDAY, 26th MAY, 1915.



Congress entered upon its final deliberations on the Wednesday morning, Mr. George Bastard again being in the chair.

HEARTS OF OAK GREETINGS.

The PRESIDENT opened the proceedings by reading a telegram from the Hearts of Oak Society to the following effect :—The delegates of the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, in annual meeting assembled, send hearty fraternal greetings and best wishes for the success of your meeting, and earnestly hope the result will be advantageous to your societies and all friendly societies. “Is it your wish (continued the President) that we send a telegram to the Hearts of Oak Society reciprocating their good wishes ?”

Loud cries of “Aye” indicated the delegates’ approval.

The PRESIDENT said the next item on their agenda was the paper on “The Future Policy of Co-operation : National and International,” by Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. He did not think it was necessary to introduce Mr. Williams ; he was so well known to co-operators, and he was sure they were all delighted to have him with them that morning.

Mr. WILLIAMS then proceeded to read his paper, which was as follows :—

THE FUTURE POLICY OF CO-OPERATION: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL.

BY ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P. (London).

Before speaking on "The Future Policy of Co-operation," it is necessary to have a clear idea of what exactly we mean by co-operation. The word is used in two senses—in one it means a theory of life, and in the other a system of business. As a theory of life it means the belief that the affairs of the world are best ordered, not by competition and a struggle of each one of us to do the best for himself and for his family, without much regard to the interests or other people and their families; but by a deliberate agreement, and voluntary association, to work together harmoniously, and to share among us the wealth produced, and the other advantages gained, upon principles of reason and of equity freely agreed upon beforehand. Such is the meaning of co-operation in its wide and spiritual sense—co-operation as a principle. In its narrower sense, co-operation means the system of business which claims to be founded upon that principle. It is in the latter sense that I am asked to deal with it to-day, and to speak on the future policy of co-operation as we know it in the store and workshop movement in this country, in agricultural co-operation, and in co-operative banking.

The first great principle of co-operation in the past has been self-help, or more fully mutual self-help; and that, I think, must continue to be the corner-stone of its future policy. Our fathers did not rely on State help, and they repudiated State interference in their movement. Co-operation, in Great Britain at least, has always meant *voluntary* co-operation; and if we desire to avoid confusion of words and confusion of thought, we must keep this voluntary co-operation distinct in our minds, and in our language, from the activities of the State and the municipality. These do

not depend upon voluntary association, but upon the force of law, which requires all citizens within certain areas to contribute to their cost, or otherwise take part in them, whether they wish it or no.

These activities are often recommended to us as part of the co-operative movement, on the ground that they seek the common good and not individual profit. That is true, but so do many other forms of activity. Charitable organisations, religious organisations, and individuals in their private and business life are often animated by a sincere desire to serve the common good, but that does not constitute them part of the co-operative movement.

Politics and the activities of the municipalities and the State, State help and State interference, are to my mind excellent things in their proper spheres. I have no hostility to them ; I believe that at many points they supplement co-operation, and do what voluntary association cannot achieve ; but they are not co-operation, and co-operation must keep itself distinct from them if it is to perform its great work of welding together the whole of the people for certain purposes, irrespective of class, politics, religion, or opinions upon any outside matter. That, at any rate, seems true of co-operation in the United Kingdom. In some other countries co-operation does not claim to unite the whole of the people as it does in England. It belongs to a class ; it is closely associated with certain shades of politics, and certain forms of religion, or anti-religion ; and it is accustomed to State favouritism, which stimulates for political purposes some forms of co-operation and thwarts others. In those other countries, co-operation may develop on lines quite other than ours, with certain advantages and certain disadvantages ; but were we in this country to rely upon the State, and mix our work with State and Municipal Socialism, we should inevitably split upon party politics and rend our movement into warring factions.

Now, how far does all this agree with the policy so much advocated of late, that our movement should cease to rely exclusively upon itself, and learn to work with "other forces ?" What should be our policy in that respect ? It all depends upon

what other forces. Closer working with the friendly society and building society movements would only be closer union with what are, in principle, parts of the co-operative movement already. Closer working with educational societies, housing societies, and garden city associations would only be helping that which has been our work from the beginning, and on which we are not in any way divided. These, however, are not the "other forces" which are most in mind, but the trade union movement and one of our political parties. As to the trade union movement, we have long recognised, by receiving their fraternal delegates at our Congresses, that we and they are in many respects working for the same ends; also they, like us, are based upon self-help and voluntary association. Our association with them in the past has in no way divided us, and I do not see why it should in the future. It has always seemed to me that the two movements might, with great advantage, agree to help one another much more closely than they do; to work together in special enterprises, such as coal mining and engineering; to bank and invest their funds together; and to advance towards the ideal of every co-operative worker being a trade-unionist, and every trade-unionist a co-operator.

Such alliance with "another force" might well be a great factor in our future policy, but how about closer union with a political party? I have argued the last proposal on purely practical grounds, and I desire to argue this on similar grounds. Personally, I believe in political action for many social reforms. If in the co-operative movement we all were of one mind as to those questions, I should think it pedantry to refuse to use our organisations for helping such political action; but, unfortunately, we are not all of one mind—far from it. Politically, we are hopelessly divided into at least three parties—not to mention that large part of our number who take no side in political matters, and would strongly object to their money being spent on them.

Sometimes, of course, separate political questions arise which affect our societies in a direct and unmistakable way—questions on which there is practically no division of opinion among us—questions of our food, our freedom of action, and so forth. On these we have spoken from time to time, and indeed our Parlia

mentary Committee is constantly engaged with them. But alliance with a political party is quite another matter. The objections to it have nothing to do with the programme of the particular party proposed: they apply equally against alliance with my own party, or any other party. We do not want to have a great secession from our existing societies, and the establishment of competing and overlapping societies, blue, buff, and red, in the same town.

Leaving, now, other forces and turning to our own efforts, our policy must be to spread distributive co-operation over the whole country, filling up the big gaps which still exist, and remedying the defects. Of these I would mention two. The first, which is seldom or never mentioned in these Congresses, is the fact that so large a part of our co-operators hold very little in the capital of their society, so that the majority of members have little or no resources of their own to fall back upon, while the minority are, for all intents and purposes, the capitalists of the movement. They are a comparative few paid yearly interest to provide what the whole mass of the members should provide for themselves in something like equal shares. The other defect is our old friend, or rather our old enemy, the hunting after high dividends. It is not too much to say that in many districts the co-operative stores, by the high prices which they maintain, are making the fortunes of the grocers. The grocer sells just a little below store price, paying, of course, no dividend to the purchaser, but putting a very handsome profit into his own pocket. A large part of the people go to him because the store price is a little higher than his, and they are either too poor or too improvident to wait till the end of the quarter, when the store dividend would more than readjust the balance. Is it right or expedient to keep prices and dividends so high? Is it not the true policy for all our societies to do as so many already do—sell as low as any tradesman, and pay a moderate dividend out of the economies of co-operation and cash trading? And is not this war time especially a time to try in that way to bring more of the poorest people into our movement?

Turning from distribution to the other great development of our national co-operation, I submit that our policy should include

the development of both forms of production, both by the Wholesales and by productive societies, until every British product which the stores need to sell is, speaking broadly, manufactured within our own movement. By maintaining these two forms of co-operative production we shall retain for the stores alternative sources of supply, between which they can choose without going outside the co-operative movement. Moreover, as it should be the policy of the productive societies to sell not only to the stores, but largely for export and in the open market (where, of course, the Wholesales and consumers' societies cannot sell their products), productive societies are the only possible form of co-operation in many industries—the only way to bring large sections of British labour under co-operative conditions.

Co-operative societies are already, taking them all together, great employers of labour, and are destined to become far more so ; it therefore becomes a very important question what is their true policy towards the labour they employ ? I take it we are all agreed that in wages and conditions and hours they should not only be equal to the best competitive employers, but, as far as possible, they should set the pace. I say "as far as possible" because it is impossible for them to go much beyond the standard of the world around them. But these good conditions are not, to my mind, all we should aim at. I do not believe that the wage system, even at its best—even when the employer is a co-operative society, or the whole community—can bring out, in the average man, the best of which he is capable. It needs something to show him that he is not being merely exploited, but that, if he will do his best, his employer, whether a private employer, or a co-operative society, or the community, will let him reap a direct reward. Moreover, co-operative employers tend in many cases to become great highly organised federal bodies, ruled by permanent officers, who are very far off from the workers employed. Now, the syndicalist movement has shown us, what many of us believed all along, that men will not be content to work under the control of a centralised bureaucracy : they must have a large share of the control in their own hands—control over the workshop conditions which make up so great a part of their lives. If you give them

this large share of control, you must make them in a large measure responsible. I believe, therefore, in spite of some present appearances, that the future policy of co-operative societies towards labour will be more and more a policy of co-partnership ; not perhaps immediately, but in the long run—a policy like that which we have in our present co-partnership productive societies, and in that great and flourishing federal body, the United Baking Society of Glasgow. We know, of course, that the Scottish Wholesale has lately decided to abolish profit-sharing with its employes. To my mind, that is a great step backwards, tending to create a divorce between the interests of the workers employed and those of the great body of consumers who employ them. The consumers will in future take the whole profit, including the part arising from the zeal shown, and the economies effected, by their servants.

Turning from distribution and production, the two forms of co-operation we know best in Great Britain, it must be part of our policy to develop co-operative credit societies, and co-operative agricultural societies of all kinds, on the lines on which they have achieved such gigantic success in foreign countries. Such societies are indeed already developing on a substantial scale in Great Britain. I wish I had time to consider them more fully, and also to speak of the great possibilities of co-operative insurance. I must, however, find time to speak of co-operative housing. There is much that the State and the municipality must do for housing, but we must not leave it all to them : I am sure there is much also that can best be done by voluntary association. For the very poor, no doubt, the public authorities must provide, since they have not the money, nor sometimes the force of character, to provide houses for themselves. As for private enterprise, it scarcely ever provides houses for the really poor decently. But the well-paid artisans can provide houses for themselves by association better than anyone can do it for them, just as they can provide groceries. Indeed, they have to an appreciable extent already done it. Besides what the building societies have done, the co-operative movement has advanced millions for housing. The Woolwich Arsenal Society set a fine example of a co-operative suburb years ago, anticipating many of the best

features of the garden suburb movement before that movement existed. Co-partnership housing societies have shown that, after all that distributive societies can do in housing, there is room left for special societies ; and the work of the first garden city, at Letchworth, shows what the co-operative movement might do—and, I hope, some day will do—in founding, not mere suburbs, but a completely co-operative garden town. Considering all these efforts, I conclude that in co-operative housing is the next great field for the development of our movement, and for the investment of hundreds of millions of working class capital.

But if the societies are to have a great policy of housing, they must judiciously make themselves owners of land. Nor is it only for housing that they should do this. The land is the great source of raw materials, and the chain of co-operation will be completed in proportion as co-operators make themselves owners of the sources of raw materials. In the effort to provide for themselves at cost price, co-operators first became their own retailers, then their own merchants, manufacturers, and importers ; but still they find they are liable to be exploited by the owners of raw materials, and of the source of raw materials. When they own their own land, they can produce their own raw materials and get them at cost price, and be at last free from exploitation. This is an argument we have heard enthusiastically proclaimed of late, and it is sound ; but it is subject to two very important cautions. First, we must get the land at a reasonable price, for we may be exploited in the price we pay for land just as much as in the price which, being landless, we pay for its use or its produce. To buy land, however, is a ticklish operation financially ; for if you buy a small piece and develop it, and then want to buy adjoining land, you are certain to find the price raised against you, on the strength of your own expenditure and improvements. On the other hand, if you buy a large area and can only use part of it for some years, the remainder is meanwhile eating its head off in accumulated interest, and perhaps taxes ; and before you are ready to use it it stands at a high price. This is a dilemma it is not easy to find a way through. I think it arises from the reasons for which land, whether building land or agricultural, is held in this country.

Building land is held as a speculation : everyone expects his piece to be built on soon, and to bring a good return on his outlay ; the majority are disappointed and lose money, while the minority have their expectations fulfilled, and make a profit. Meanwhile, the present owners will usually only sell at a price so high as to make it very costly to hold the land for some years awaiting development. Agricultural land, on the other hand, is held for the position and power which its ownership confers ; consequently, rich people will pay such a high price for it that its rent represents but a small rate of interest on the purchase price. While, therefore, for co-operators to buy land is the culminating part of their work, to buy it advantageously is a difficult matter. It is one which by itself might well occupy a longish paper.

The second caution is that it is not much good owning land unless we know how to use it profitably. That is a comparatively simple problem when we intend to use it as sites for houses, and as gardens to go with them. But when we come to land as the source of raw material it is far more difficult. We know how hard societies have found it to make farming pay, and the attempts to raise coal by co-operative societies have hitherto meant even heavier losses. Times are changed since the last experiment was made, and it may be that it could be renewed now with more success, in co-operation with the trade union movement ; but the high prices we are paying in war time should not make us forget how technical an enterprise coal mining is, and how easily capital may be lost in it.

For all this work, and much other that might be sketched out, we need a great policy of co-operative education, so that every person who becomes a member of a co-operative society, and every employee taken on in a co-operative store or workshop, shall, as a matter of course, receive instruction in the principles of co-operation. I think we ought to add that no new member or employee should be entitled to the full privileges of a co-operator until he has gone through a brief instruction in co-operation.

I am far from under-valuing the work of co-operative education as hitherto carried on, but I am going to suggest a new departure in its policy : it is one borrowed from Denmark. In the early

days of British co-operation, its educational work consisted largely in teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic to that large proportion of its members who had never had the opportunity of any schooling. Now that we have had universal education so long in this country, that is no longer necessary ; but we are still doing a great educational work with our classes and examinations for young people, in book-keeping, the principles of co-operation, economic history, the duties of citizenship, and so forth. It requires, however, some effort on the part of young people to avail themselves of these opportunities in their spare time, and, unfortunately, only a minority will make that effort. Some, perhaps, are genuinely too tired after the day's work, but the great majority could, I think, make the effort if they would. Is there not, then, any other means which would have a little more excitement and variety in it than the regular attendance at evening classes ; and which would attract a larger number of our young people, so giving a higher education, if not to the majority, at any rate to a very large part of the workers, and leavening the whole lump ?

Our Neale and Hughes Scholarships at Oxford cannot do this ; even at Ruskin Hall the course is, by its length and its cost, well out of the reach of the majority. Of recent years there has been talk of a co-operative university : the Danes have something like that in what they call their high school movement. These Danish high schools are, however, nothing like high schools as we understand them. In the first place, they are not for boys and girls, but for young men and young women. I will describe to you one of them which I visited about three years ago. It was just a good-sized country house, with some farm buildings and about seventeen acres of land. Inside it was very plainly, not to say barely, furnished, but with one or two pictures and ornaments of real merit. The head master was a man of superior education, and this house was the home of himself, his wife, and children. There were also six assistant masters. To one of these so-called high schools young men of the working and farmer classes go once in their lives, for a brief course of higher education. The lads leave school about fourteen and go to work ; but when they are about eighteen or nineteen years old, or from that to twenty-

five—just when they are of an age to appreciate education—they take, once in their lives, a spell off from manual work for a matter of five months, and go to a high school for that period—from the beginning of November to the end of February. There they live as members of the head master's family, in the closest relations with him the whole of that time. They sleep in his house, and have all their meals with him. He does not teach them technical subjects, but history, poetry, science, and the duty of citizens. Of course, it is not possible to get a profound knowledge of these subjects in five months; but the young men learn enough to open their minds, to show them their need of knowledge, to stir their patriotism and sense of duty, to stimulate their imaginations, and introduce them, at the most impressionable age, to the intellectual, and higher, life. While they are in this high school, or should we say college, they live very plainly; indeed, their life is hard, though not too hard. By living plainly, the expense for board, lodging, and teaching together is kept down to about 38s. a month. About £10, I was told, covers the cost of the whole course of five months, including travelling to the school, and back home at the end of their time. In summer there are similar courses of study for young women. Altogether there are about eighty such high schools, receiving from twenty to 200 pupils each at a time; and about one-third of the youth of Denmark passes through them—some 8,000 each year. It is the opportunity of their lives, and from the high school they go back to the same work from which they came. These institutions have largely helped to make modern Denmark, and they have been copied in Sweden, Norway, and Finland. Why should they not be copied in England? If the co-operative societies, with their large education funds, would start such a movement, it would be a real co-operative university. Probably we could not do it quite so cheaply in England as in Denmark—say £15 instead of £10—but even at that it would be a reasonable ambition for almost every young man, something for him to save up for, and afterwards something to elevate his whole life; and the large numbers passing through these winter colleges would leaven the whole lump of our population. It is not merely a chance for the most gifted few to rise that we want: it is some-

thing that will also give a higher education to all who are capable of it.

I must turn now to the future policy of international co-operation, though there is much more that might still be said on the home side of my subject. International co-operation, as we know it, is almost entirely a propagandist, or educational, movement. International co-operation in a business sense—the exchange of products and services between co-operators of one country and another—has hardly yet begun. By and bye I will take these two separately—first, international co-operation in the propagandist and educational sense; and, second, international co-operation in the business sense—but I must first say one thing that applies to both of them. If the work of international co-operation is to go on, the first and most essential condition is peace. We live in a time of war, of a life and death struggle by our country, and we are patriots; but we must remember that co-operation has always stood for peace, without which it can achieve little good at home, and cannot exist at all as between nation and nation. Politics have always been rightly excluded from our Congresses, but the support of peace has not been held to be politics. Many of us will never forget how, at the last International Co-operative Congress at Glasgow, not two years ago, we passed with wild enthusiasm our resolution in favour of peace, and loudly and long cheered the declaration of one of our greatest leaders when he cried out “We will never fight Germany.” That was not foolishness, though an evil fate has wrecked our hopes: that was the very essence and life-blood of international co-operation. When this war is successfully over we must return to it.

I am not a little tempted to-day to take this part of the subject given me—“The Future Policy of International Co-operation”—and interpret it as challenging me to say how the Governments of the world must, when peace is once more attained, co-operate together for peace and for mutual protection, instead of competing to pile up armaments and to threaten one another with destruction. The words would bear that interpretation, and the subject is a tempting one for me, and one on which I have

ideas ; but I know it is not the one I was really intended to deal with. I am asked to deal with international co-operation in a different sense, meaning the relations of the co-operative movements, of this and other countries, both for propaganda and for business. In that sense, the first question that arises is : Will international co-operation be possible at all after the war ? No doubt the friendly relations of the movements in Great Britain, France, and their allies will continue, and so, I suppose, will the similar relations of the German movement and the Austrian ; but can the International Co-operative Alliance go on with its work ? That was not confined to a few allied countries : it was a world-wide work. Will it be possible to continue it so, and to keep within its fold the movements of the countries now at war with one another ? I do not myself doubt that it will be possible, and I am still more convinced that it should be our policy in every way to help the Alliance to carry on its beneficent work. A French co-operator said to me the other day that the Alliance is perhaps the greatest hope of bringing the democracies of Europe together again after this war. Therefore he thought, and I think, the Alliance has pursued a wise policy in never for a minute forgetting that it is an international body, and must not, as an Alliance, take sides in any dispute or conflict between the nations. Every member of its committee is a citizen of some one country, and full, of course, of the patriotism of his own country ; but as an official of the Alliance he has to remember that it represents not one, but all the nations. We members of the executive of the Alliance are all British ; nevertheless, we have steadily avoided anything that could even seem like committing the Alliance to our own side. During the war we have been able to assist in relieving the distress of a few of the thousands of non-combatants who have suffered from no fault of their own : at the end of the war we shall have the far greater task of inviting the co-operative societies of the whole world, which have not themselves suffered, to contribute to restore those hundreds of co-operative societies which have suffered, or have even been completely destroyed, in many different countries. We know already that such destruction has occurred in Belgium, France, and Servia : it has probably

happened also in Austria and Poland ; and who shall say to how many more societies, and in how many more lands, the same may happen before the war ends.

Such as the policy of the Alliance has been in the past, it must be in the future, when the work of destruction is ended : it must go on spreading the knowledge of every country in every other country ; organising tours of co-operators to visit other countries ; organising International Congresses, where the co-operators of all countries shall meet again to cement personal friendships—which will help forward national friendships—and to discuss peaceably the great problems of building up. And all this work must be done with more zeal and courage, and with larger claims and wider views after the war than before it.

But what is it that hinders so lamentably all our international work ? What is it that, at our Congresses, hampers our discussions within the Congress Hall, and outside the Congress Hall almost wholly prevents us from exchanging ideas with our foreign colleagues, who should become our foreign friends ? It is the differences of language. But this obstacle is not insuperable : already a great invention—one of the greatest in the history of the world—has been made, which renders it easy for the men of all languages to communicate together. I hope to see the time when the International Co-operative Alliance will take a great part in spreading a knowledge of that wonderful world language, Esperanto, which any man can learn in a few days ; and when the co-operative societies of every land shall have classes for teaching it. Then, indeed, we shall be able to *meet* our foreign friends, to meet them mind to mind, and not merely to look at them, as we do now.

Our British Co-operative Congresses assemble always at the anniversary of Pentecost, when, as we have so often read (whether we deem it to be narrative of fact or merely symbolical), the men of many far countries came together and found the barriers of language broken down : found they could all understand one another as they declared “ the wonderful works of God.” Should not that be to us a symbol of what co-operators may do to help

the coming time when, besides his own language, everyone will learn also the international auxiliary language, which enables us all to speak together.

But, leaving the work of the Alliance, and with it the propagandist and educational side of international co-operation, what should be our future policy as to international co-operation on its business side? As I have said, that business co-operation has hardly begun. We want a great interchange of the co-operative productions of the nations. There is vast scope for it, and to promote it should we not have international co-operative exhibitions at the Congresses of the International Alliance? Again, for the interchange of goods, shall we not want some day an International Co-operative Wholesale? Perhaps we shall begin it first with a simple agency to arrange exchanges between the Wholesales, and the other co-operative societies, of different lands. I have spoken above of co-operators owning the raw materials, and the great source of raw materials, which is the land; but more and more of our raw materials come from foreign lands, and especially from tropical lands; more and more the Wholesales tend to become owners of lands in such foreign tropical countries, in order to secure the supply of raw materials, such as oils, tea, coffee, and so forth. This is by no means without its dangers. It will be a test of our fidelity to democracy, for it puts us into the position of capitalists and masters towards men of primitive races. Perhaps, when we have an International Wholesale, such ownership will be a prominent part of its work.

For all these developments capital is almost the last thing that is likely to fail us. They depend upon knowledge, both general knowledge, and special knowledge of the co-operative movement; but they depend even more upon enterprise and natural intelligence; and, most of all, upon the existence of the true co-operative spirit in the hearts of millions of humble people, working in their own spheres, and their own way, in the spirit of honesty and of unselfishness, in the spirit of serving others, and yet of self-reliance and self-help.

It is that spirit which has borne us on from Toad Lane to the

present great developments. We stand, as it were, upon no inconsiderable height, and look down on the tiny hillock from which we began to climb ; then, turning, we look up to the mighty summits we have still to conquer. We can only do it if we work in the same spirit that animated our fathers in co-operation : without that spirit, material success cannot be gained ; and even if by some accident it were gained, it would be valueless. Those beginnings of our fathers in co-operation were indeed small, but their spirit was pregnant with the redemption of the people.

THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. J. H. HUDSON (Eccles), who opened the discussion, said Mr. Williams, in his efforts to work out his own remedies, brought himself up against a blank wall when he had to deal with the land question. He submitted that they must obtain the land in order to get control of the sources of supply ; but they could not do that until they made up their minds what would be their relationship with the State, which was, in the long run, the final arbiter in fixing the price for which they had to get the land Mr. Williams spoke about. It was all very well for Mr. Williams to disguise the fact, but they must have some sort of hold upon the land and upon the laws, by which they might break up the organisation of capitalist enterprise. Until the co-operative movement removed the scale from its eyes about being mixed up with politics—until it had some definite view on this matter—it never would get the sources of supply. They had to make up their minds to have a political view upon a question of this sort. He spoke approvingly of Mr. Williams's remarks to the effect that after this war they would have to build up again the standard of love and brotherhood, and said the International Alliance had set them an admirable lead. The report submitted to Congress on the previous day was most statesmanlike. The great co-operative fellowship had to depend upon their alliance with all countries.

Mr. J. PENNY (Planet Mutual Insurance, Sheffield) said there were many important sections in Mr. Williams's paper, and it was utterly impossible in the course of five minutes to deal with more than one or two of them. Mr. Williams, he pointed out, desired no political alliance. Somehow that matter never had an opportunity of being properly discussed at a Co-operative Congress. As a member of the party supposed to be concerned, he did not believe that a hard-and-fast agreement between the Labour Party and the co-operative movement was either necessary or desirable at the present time. As a matter of fact the co-operative movement was too reactionary for him as a Labour man to want it to be connected with his party. Mr. Williams had said "Let politics alone altogether." But where did that land us ? Mr. Williams had spoken about peace.

Europe was devastated by this infernal war. Who was responsible for that war? Were British co-operators responsible? Did we want it? Did the German co-operators want it? He believed the German co-operators wanted it no more than we did. What had the co-operators of Germany and Austria done? They realised the menace of war, and forced their way into their Parliaments and denounced militarism. They were not powerful enough to overcome the military party; but they faced the issue, and men like Liebknecht deserved a tribute for the work they did. They fought for peace in the only place where peace could be established and they looked towards Britain. They said: "You British co-operators! you, too, professed to believe in peace." But we waved our palsied hands and said "No politics!" There were sins of omission as well as sins of commission. It was customary to blame the Kaiser; but when we came to consider who was responsible for the war, let us take part of the blame upon ourselves.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) said he did not intend to touch upon the contentious points in the paper. He regarded the reference to the housing question as one of the most important parts of the paper. He believed it was the question that would have the most immediate effect upon the wellbeing of the co-operative community and upon the members of the community as a whole. It was only by providing proper conditions of life, both in the direction of properly paid labour and labour carried on under right conditions and living in houses that were fitted for bringing up children and making them into good men and women, that they could secure the betterment of the people of the future. The co-operative movement had neglected its opportunities. The retail societies had advanced something like ten millions in enabling members to purchase or to build houses. The Co-operative Wholesale Society was advancing very large sums every year for a similar purpose; but they exercised no control as to how that money should be spent. The result was that members of co-operative societies were building their houses in the ordinary fashion far too close together on a given area. They would have to place a limit to the number of houses allowed on an acre, and so reduce the number of people who lived on such an area. It was true that copartnership housing had done a great deal, and several societies had attempted to carry out housing on a proper scheme. They had a Co-operative Housing Committee for dealing with co-operative housing, but it was quite ineffective because it had no means, even to bring its members together for the purpose of discussing their work. What they needed was an official committee of the Union that would meet under proper conditions and deal with those questions in a broad and effective manner, and he hoped that would soon come about. He asked them to look at the condition of things in the congested areas in Scotland where they had tenement dwellings in all their towns. In Glasgow there were blocks where 800 persons were housed on an acre of ground. That resulted in a death rate of 400 per 1,000 against a general death rate of 13½ in the whole of the country. That meant an enormous loss of human life.

The children who were brought up in such conditions were not fully developed either physically, mentally, or morally, because of their surroundings. If they took the Letchworth Garden City with a limitation of houses to the acre they found a death rate of 6 per 1,000, half the general death rate of the whole country.

Mr. M. HUNTER (United Co-operative Baking, Glasgow) said he maintained that the principle of voluntarism had been a distinct failure in every aspect of national life. If they applied that principle to what existed before the passing of the Education Act of 1872, they would find that the people were vastly ignorant; but after education was made compulsory, then they found that a great reaction took place. He was of the opinion that much of the social progress that had been made since 1872 had been due to compulsory education. Then with regard to the health of boroughs and towns, before the passing of the Public Health Act, and the sanitary laws, the country was in a disgraceful condition. He thought it was neither proper nor right that the co-operative movement should adhere to the principle of voluntarism. There should be some power or standard of intelligence laid down in the movement, and no one should be allowed to become a member unless he or she bound himself or herself to the principles of co-operation. He held that if they were to work on proper lines they must have some system. There were some members he would like to see expelled because they did not come up to the standard of co-operative principles.

Mr. G. W. RAMSDEN (Weymouth) asked Congress and the co-operative movement generally to awaken to the possibilities of industrial assurance, which applied most particularly to members of co-operative societies. Millions of pounds were paid by the people of this country in premiums for industrial life assurance, and yet in this class of business their own Co-operative Insurance Society only drew £4,666 in premiums in twelve months or less than £100 a week, and not as much as any insurance society was collecting in a small town. He urged them to take action in regard to this matter and to move quickly.

Mr. T. MASON (Uppertown) who, on two previous occasions, had attempted to read a postcard bearing figures regarding a graduated land tax, and had been ruled out of order, at last obtained the opportunity he had desired. He was greeted with loud laughter, and the frequent interruptions caused his remarks to be practically inaudible at the press table. He said they had allowed people to monopolise the land, and then went on, "I have here a postcard"—at this remark, the laughter was so loud and continuous that the President was several minutes in restoring order. The speaker eventually managed to read the matter on the card, which was to the effect that if land were taxed 1d. in the pound, it would bring in thirty million pounds. The figures dealt with a rising scale up to 6d. in the pound, at which figure, said Mr. Mason, the tax would bring in three hundred and sixty millions, and everybody would be "well off."

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section) said he could not sit still and allow to go from that Congress the remarks of one of the delegates without an expression in flat contradiction. In regard to the "Lusitania," the coroner's jury said, and rightly said—

The CHAIRMAN : That is not in this paper. Our friend over there was entitled to refer to the war because the war was mentioned ; but there is nothing in the paper regarding the "Lusitania."

Proceeding, Mr. DOUSE remarked that the delegate said that the cause of the war was theirs. He denied it. In regard to the source of raw materials, he said it was suggested they should bring to one common centre the productions of the world. He asked them how they could fairly bring together the whole of the productions, say of Europe, when the law of this country in regard to land was far behind that of Germany, France, Spain, and Italy. The minerals, which in his judgment should belong to the whole of the people, were held by a few men, who were called "fee simple" owners of the land. Germany had done away with this kind of thing, and so also had France. The result was that these countries were in a much better position than the people of this country. If they could not nationalise the land, they should at least nationalise all the minerals that lay below, and he suggested that the State had no right to give any other ownership in the fee simple, except three. If he bought land, he should have the right to sink for water, and for drainage, and to go down for a foundation. He thought the owner of the fee simple had no rights whatever, apart from those three. After all, the essence of their lives, their homes, and their health was absolutely bound up in the possession of the land.

Mr. J. NUGENT HARRIS (Agricultural Organisation Society) said it would be the unanimous opinion that that Congress took the highest place in regard to the quality of the papers submitted to it. He directed the attention of the Congress to the splendid influence of Denmark in respect to farm schools. England and Wales had taken a lesson from Denmark with regard to technical schools for agriculture, and already there was a beginning of a great movement in this country in that direction. There was already in the North-Western Section a Farm Institute, corresponding to the farm schools of Denmark, and there was also a farm school in Monmouth. So we were at the beginning of a great movement, started by the Board of Agriculture, in co-operation with the County Councils, for establishing in this country farm schools such as had left their impression on Denmark. Education in agriculture would never have been the success it had been if they had not had agricultural technical instruction linked up with the organisation of production and distribution in agriculture, and Mr. Harris submitted that this proper organisation would be most desirable for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He thought it would be interesting to Congress to know that in 1882, the year in which the first co-operative dairy was started in Denmark, the average yield per cow per annum was 400 gallons, but now the average yield had gone up to 700 gallons, and the butter fat had gone up $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

He asked, before he closed, when Congress was to have a field day to discuss this important agricultural question, with which Congress had so often flirted.

Mrs. E. BARTON (Brightside and Carbrook) regarded the question of a farm school as very nearly akin to a technical college, where people would learn a particular trade. They of the Women's Guild, after seven years' consideration of the matter, turned their eyes to Denmark and its high schools. They had come to the conclusion that something of that kind was needed in England, but more with a view of general education in order to broaden the mind. They, as workers, were kept in a groove, and were not many-sided. They were told that ignorance would always give way to knowledge. They, as co-operators, had to learn, and the women of the movement had already made a small beginning—small because their finances had been small—and for the last two years they had been having their two days' schools in all their centres. No amount of lectures or classes could do the good that the coming together and living a communal life of a college could. It was one of the things that the workers missed. They had tried by bringing the members of the Women's Guild together for two days to do something of the kind. They welcomed the appointment of a permanent teacher, and the Co-operative College would soon follow, and working people would know something of the common life of the college. If they were better off, the town house or the country mansion would be used as a place for meeting people of similar ideas. They, as workers, could not do that. All that the women could do was to have a word with each other over the backyard wall. Had they a right to expect their boys and girls to go to schools to prepare to be exploited for profit? They wanted education, but they should have it for mental development. Education was at the bottom of all the problems they had to solve. Working people would have to think them out for themselves.

Mr. F. GILLBANKS (Dewsbury) hoped the paper would be taken to sectional and district conferences for the various points to be discussed. They were not all Congress speakers. He was glad their old friend, or enemy, the dividend question had been raised. The dividend was the burning question of the day, especially in times of war; but it was not only war in Europe from which they were suffering, but war with regard to the commodities they were obliged to have. If they could see their way to reduce the dividend and reduce the prices, they would find that co-operation would have a far more wide-reaching effect on the distributive side than it had at the present time. The time was coming when they would have to think of securing a uniform dividend. It was no use one society having 3s. 4d. and another 3s. Where they were going to get the best dividend there the co-operators would go to get the most articles. If they had a uniform dividend, they could get a national society. That would help co-operation to be a lever for the working classes generally; not only to uplift them socially, but also financially.

Mr. W. E. DUDLEY (Co-operative Wholesale Society) said he only wanted to trouble Congress with the question of raw materials. There was a fever in the air now about raw material, and it was quite right. But one of the speakers had said they could not get at raw materials unless they associated themselves with a party. It would be impossible for them to associate themselves with a party, and, therefore, they could not get at raw materials in that way. The Co-operative Wholesale Society had been out in West Africa, where they got a concession, and they got that concession through Parliament; but they had not to have a party for that. They wanted to be as intelligent and as tolerant as the National Union of Teachers. If they wanted to go into Parliament, they had got Mr. Galbraith, a member of the Central Board, who had gone into Parliament, and who would not forget his co-operative principles when there. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, however, were out for raw materials; they were drawing them to the movement daily; they had got thousands of acres abroad, and thousands of acres at home. They had a number of projects on foot, which they could not at present give any information about; they were not going to tell them, because there must be some strategy in warfare. It was necessary that they should go on their stomachs, so that they would not be shot, for they must all remember that there were snipers here as well as on the continent; but when they got the projects through, they would come back and tell the movement all about them. They often heard that if the Co-operative Wholesale Society did so and so—and some of the “ifs” were very big; but there was one “if” very small, and they must carry it out, and that was that if they took proprietary articles they must take their own, and then they would give the Co-operative Wholesale Society greater security for going for the supplies of raw materials.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) said there were always complaints about the conditions of labour, and they had asked Mr. Williams to write a paper on the future policy of the movement; he had plainly shown to them that they could not extend the future policy of the movement until they had a better hold over the conditions of labour. They could only get that control in their own factories and their own stores. Could that, however, be obtained only by displaying in their own stores their own co-operative goods? They desired to get the possession of land; but there was a greater thing needed, and that was to get the faith of their members. They wanted a greater fight in their own movement to see that they controlled industry and to make more of the goods that were sold in their stores. It was said, she went on, that no member ought to be admitted until he or she had a proper knowledge of co-operation. She was sure that the teachers of the employés had not been properly educated; they were out to draw in the poor, but could they see how the poor were to be released from their homes to gather in the education of the movement? Let them first draw them within their faith, and then see what could be done to educate them. Let them have a second look at their educational funds, and see how they used

them at present. She appreciated the High Schools in Denmark. But no country like ours, with its large industrial centres, offered the same chance to men and women to attend such schools in this country. She could not understand even going to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and saying "Will you spare your employés between eighteen and twenty years of age to go to the schools for even five months?" Did they think the bank would allow its employés to go? No; she thought that until they obtained a better law in England, the matter was beyond them. Let them be truly international during the war; let them remember that even in those countries against them there were co-operators, and some mothers weeping for boys who were not there. Let them say, when it was all over, "Peace, peace for every one."

The CHAIRMAN said they were anxious to close Congress at 12-30. He did not want to rush things, but they had had a fair discussion on the paper. He knew it was important, but, owing to the time, he thought the remarks might be made as short as possible.

Mr. T. SHAW (Sheffield and Ecclesall) said there were three points in the paper, viz., the necessity for them to acquire land, education, and the question of housing. In regard to housing, he knew the valuable work Mr. Williams had done in this direction, but he would have liked him to point out more fully that the position of the people to-day was growing worse. The modern slum was worse than the old slum. The co-operative movement had done good work, but only a small work in regard to the great problem which had to be solved. In the town which he came from they could not obtain "even a dog kennel," except what was owned by big property owners. Consequently the people were compelled to live in the houses of the men who were making big fortunes.

Mr. J. SMITH (Leeds) remarked that both forms of co-operative production had been referred to. They had made considerable progress in the federal system of co-operative productions—the Wholesale Societies had workshops highly organised, well equipped, and well managed—but he believed that in this form of production there were far-reaching results to come. On the other hand, he, with the writer of the paper, had great faith in the extension of the co-partnership principle. They had moved up to now on the lines of least resistance; but if they were to progress in a larger sense, they must see that the workers had some control of the workshop and some responsibility in the management. This could only be brought about by education. By the appointment of Professor Hall as Adviser of Studies they were hoping for great things in the co-operative movement.

Mr. S. KEMP (Wigston Hosiers) said that if he had any criticism to offer it was that there were too many subjects of interest in the one paper. He hoped, however, that the paper would be sent to the district conferences and have full discussion there. They were told that co-operators were reactionary. He contended that co-operators were not reactionary. They were looking forward, and voluntary co-operation had not failed, as one of

the delegates alleged. Voluntary co-operation was not exhausted, it was growing; and it would be more useful and more beneficent in the future than in the past. He repudiated the insinuation, made that morning, that British co-operators, by their political inaction, had been partly to blame for the war with Germany. That was untrue.

Mr. R. J. GOWDY (Belfast) wanted to say a word on a subject that had been omitted by the majority of the speakers. He wanted co-operators to teach the young people what the true ideals of co-operation were. We must also do away with many of the discrepancies that had been spoken of in that Congress, so that there might grow up a co-operation that would be ideal. If people could be true co-operators, if they could put behind them a little of the old Adam called "selfishness," they would then become a greater power for good in the country. The part of the paper that struck him most was that in which Mr. Williams said: "We stand, as it were, upon no inconsiderable height, and look down on the tiny hillock from which we began to climb; then, turning, we look up to the mighty summits we have still to conquer." He urged the movement to keep its eye on its ideals, the great height at which the movement aimed, so that it might go "forward, ever forward," from one ideal to another.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section) said they had been singularly fortunate in the two papers submitted for their consideration. They were in distinct contrast with each other, but none the less one was quite the complement of the other. The day before Mr. Thorpe submitted a paper which must stimulate in every one of them thoughtful and earnest examination of the bearings of the movement. The paper by Mr. Williams breathed right through it the spirit of sound and impassioned idealism. He found himself in hearty accord with what Mr. Williams had said with respect to the movement and political action. It was untrue to say that they as co-operators were opposed to politics; they were all keen politicians. Mr. Williams himself was a practical and expert politician. What they were opposed to was partisanship. The House of Commons might be freely designated as "the house of talking men;" and it was because the time of the House of Commons was taken up so much by "talking men" that he deeply sympathised with men like Mr. Williams, who desired to see greater progress made in social reform. He wished to emphasise the closing words of Mr. Williams, in that paragraph where he so studiously restrained his optimism. He (the speaker) was inclined to believe they were in danger of being intoxicated with success. To the present generation the story of co-operation must read like a romance. Mr. Williams had administered the necessary tonic. The success of their fathers did not fall as the gentle dew from heaven, it came as the result of strenuous and self-sacrificing efforts; and as Mr. Williams said, success would not be theirs in the future unless they went forward animated by the spirit of those who had preceded them.

Mr. R. STEWART (Scottish Wholesale) proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Thorpe and Williams for their valuable papers. They did not need

commendation to a co-operative gathering. Mr. Thorpe was one of the bright stars in the co-operative firmament. His paper was full of thoughtful argument for each co-operator to take away with him and apply himself to see how his own society stood in relation to some of the matters mentioned. There had been heard a great deal about education. Education was a very great factor in connection with all democratic movements; but he had been wondering what kind of education some of the ladies and gentlemen preferred. They had universal education to-day, but when they looked back to the days of the Rochdale Pioneers and to the many other pioneers, they would find that many were men of little education; but they had got faith in the uplifting of their class. What they wanted to-day in the co-operative movement were true men and women. In many gatherings and many conferences there were men who spoke in two voices—men who asked leaders of the societies to go forward, and then went back to their societies and did nothing. They had had many instances given concerning high prices of commodities. Delegates should ponder them well, and when making remarks as to securing supplies of raw materials, exercise caution as well. Mr. Williams was one who would adorn any assembly. He was a splendid type of social reformer.

Mr. A. W. GOLIGHTLY (Co-operative Wholesale Society) seconded the resolution of thanks, eulogising the services both gentlemen had rendered. Both the English and the Scottish Wholesale Societies were proceeding nearly as fast as the loyalty of members to co-operative principles would permit them. They had some enormous projects on hand.

MR. WILLIAMS' REPLY.

On rising to reply, Mr. WILLIAMS was greeted with loud applause. He thanked the delegates very heartily for the vote of thanks, and said it was always an honour and a pleasure to address a co-operative gathering. One felt that one was addressing men and women who came from all over the country and perhaps would carry back with them some of the ideas expressed. In regard to the paper, he was reproached for not having put in one or two things in addition to those that were in already. He was under the impression that there were too many, but he could not reduce them to any less. The Central Board gave him the subject; he had not chosen it. If he had, he would not have tried to deal with national and international co-operation in one paper. Replying to the discussion, he said he did not suggest that they should leave politics alone as individuals. He merely suggested that politics had their proper organisations for dealing with them, and that they must not have a combination of organisations. As individuals, they nearly all belonged to various churches, religions, or ethical organisations; but they did not want to introduce politics into them. They would be split asunder if they introduced politics. In the same way they were

nearly all members of friendly societies, to which the same principle applied. They could only go forward if they kept other issues outside the movement. They were told that if they did that they could not deal with land ; but in spite of the present state of the land laws—he was not there to defend them—it was possible for them to do a great deal. In spite of the difficulties, many societies had secured considerable areas of land on terms at which they could deal advantageously with it. Regarding nationalising the minerals and taxing land on purchase, these questions would introduce a great deal of heat and difference into the movement. They needed to be dealt with, but there were organisations for dealing with them. After all, a great deal of the land which they needed to build up the movement was not land under the rule of the English land laws ; it was land in America, Africa, and other distant lands. Mrs. Gasson was quite right when she said it was faith in the movement that was needed far more than land laws, and, above all, the extension of production. The extension of production was a thing they did not need to call upon Parliament to help them in ; it lay within their own power. One delegate said modern slums were worse than the old slums, but he did not agree with that. There had been, on the whole, a considerable improvement in the housing of the people, although it still had faults. He was glad to hear the suggestion of Mr. Johnston, that the Co-operative Union might appoint an official housing committee to deal with this great question. It was not for him to express more than approval of that view. In reference to education, he suggested that all new co-operative members and employes should have some instruction in the principles of the movement. He did not suggest that they should go through a long course of education. When he was made a member of the Oddfellows, it was explained to him by an old member what the principles of the movement were ; and he did say that members of societies and employes who were taken into their employment should be expected to listen for an hour, at any rate, to an explanation of co-operative principles. He desired absolute liberty, but he thought they might ask members to hear what co-operation meant. Mr. Harris suggested that the schools of which he (Mr. Williams) had spoken had been commenced in this country. What he referred to were the high schools, where a general education was given. He did not agree with Mrs. Gasson that their young people could not attend such schools ; there were many thousands who could. Mr. Williams, continuing, said he had only one thing more to touch upon—the international side of the subject. We all felt strongly about the war and the terrible things done in the war. Our best efforts as Britons would be given to the victory of our country ; but if we only got victory, all the blood shed would be in vain. We did not want to relapse into the old system of armaments and alliances, which might lead to fresh wars and perhaps more terrible wars even than this. We wanted a better relation among the great nations, and it was for us, as co-operators, to keep in touch with the co-operators of other lands to bring about that better relation, in order to find a more permanent basis for peace to rest upon.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR.

The PRESIDENT: The next business before us is the election of an auditor. I beg, therefore, to propose the re-election of Mr. T. Wood. ("Agreed!")

NEXT CONGRESS.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said he had been making inquiries on behalf of the United Board concerning the facilities at Lancaster for next Congress. He had to report that Lancaster was fully capable of entertaining Congress. There was a very fine hall in a magnificent building, which was capable of holding all the delegates that were likely to come, with comfort, and it would be easy for delegates to hear the speakers. So far, the committee could recommend them to accept Lancaster. There was no place in Lancaster sufficiently large enough for the Congress exhibition, unless the war should cease, when a large disused wagon works, now occupied by German prisoners, would be suitable. But, failing that, they were in a difficulty as to what could be done. They had tried to find a place at Morecambe for the purpose, Morecambe being near to Lancaster. They would have to consider that. There would be no difficulty about accommodating delegates; Lancaster could accommodate one half, and the rest could be housed in Morecambe. They did not anticipate any impossible difficulties.

Mr. A. VARLEY (Lancaster) then said that, on behalf of the committee and members of the Lancaster Society, he had great pleasure in extending an invitation to hold the Congress of 1916 in the town of Lancaster. He was sure that every one of them would receive a hearty reception when they went there. They would be pleased with the town and delighted with the surroundings. They would be accommodated in the most perfect manner, and he did not think they would find a better place for meeting, or for the usual entertaining that went on during the Congress. There was the question of the exhibition. There were two places available; one was being used as a remount department of the army, and the other was used as an internment camp for about 3,000 Germans. If the war was over, they could accommodate the exhibition there very well indeed. As far as lodgings were concerned, there were Morecambe, Arnside, Grange, and Windermere, as well as Lancaster, of course; but to all the places named there was good train service. There seemed to be some fitness between Leicester and Lancaster; it was said that Leicester had something connected with John o' Gaunt; well, they had in Lancaster what they called John o' Gaunt's Historic Pile. Their park was one of the finest in the country; from its heights the delegates could get a view of lowland, upland, sea, and bay—a view certainly worth seeing. Their public buildings were also worthy of observation, and they invited Congress heartily to accept Lancaster.

The invitation to Lancaster was put to the assembly and accepted.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) proposed a vote of thanks to the opener of the exhibition, the Mayor, the Reception Committee, the Press, and to all who had been associated with the success of the Congress. Speaking to each point of the resolution, she specially signalised the civic welcome as one of the pleasing features of the gathering.

[3] Mr. T. E. MOORHOUSE (Co-operative Wholesale), in seconding the resolution, said that the Congress had been a great success. The surroundings of the hall in which they met were beautiful, and their wants had been attended to in a way that had scarcely ever been excelled. At the exhibition attention had been drawn to the success of their productive work, which was something to be proud of. The Mayor had shown himself a public spirited head of an energetic and progressive council. With regard to the Press, it was a great power and could do much good, or a great amount of mischief. They had met under the shadow of the great war; he hoped when they assembled at Lancaster next year the nations would have settled down to a long and permanent peace.

The resolution was carried with enthusiasm.

The PRESIDENT explained that he was the chairman of the Reception Committee, but he would like to ask Mr. A. Mann, the president of Leicester Society, to say a few words. He also reminded the delegates of the special efforts of Mr. Stock (the cashier and secretary) and Mr. J. Holden (the society's general manager), and said they might have a few words from them.

Mr. A. MANN, acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that if the committee had succeeded in pleasing the delegates and satisfying them, it would be ample repayment for all they had done. With regard to the Mayor of the town, he had had the honour of being associated with His Worship for something like forty years in works of a religious, political, and social character. He felt quite confident that Mr. Alderman North would be prepared to fulfil his civic duties as he had done. For the committee, they had done their best, and he hoped every delegate was satisfied.

Mr. STOCK, who was warmly greeted with applause, thanked the Congress. He felt sure that he had not pleased everybody, but he claimed that he had done his best.

The PRESIDENT mentioned that Mr. Holden was not present at the moment or he, too, would have said a word or two.

GRATITUDE TO CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman of the Congress. He said he was sure they would all agree that they could not conclude the gathering before expressing their warm appreciation for the services rendered by the president and vice-president during Congress. Mr. Bastard had fulfilled all the expectations they had of him. He (Mr. Bastard) claimed to be a modest man, but he had certainly conducted the proceedings of the Congress in a masterly, sym-

pathetic, and a firm manner; he had been desirous of giving everybody fair play, and altogether his conduct in the chair had been most admirable. As for the vice-chairman, he had a reputation, which he had made at Dublin. After the delivery of the inaugural address at Dublin, they regarded Mr. Fleming as one of the stars of the movement; they hoped the star would go on shining, and they would get from Mr. Fleming good service in the time to come; he had given excellent assistance to the chairman during the Congress. Mr. Gregory said he would conclude by making the usual presentations, and he handed to Mr. Bastard, on behalf of the Co-operative Union, a handsomely bound copy of "Industrial Co-operation," and to Mr. Fleming a specially bound copy of the "Co-operators' Year Book," on behalf of the Co-operative Productive Federation. Concluding, Mr. Gregory expressed a hope that the books would improve their minds.

Mr. T. E. SHOTTON (Co-operative Wholesale) had the greatest pleasure in seconding the resolution. He had attended many Congresses during the last forty-seven years, and often on the floor of the house, but he did not think they had had a better Congress, or a chairman who had been more fair, more generous, and more practical than Mr. Bastard. It had been a pleasure to be present. Proceeding, Mr. Shotton said he had been deputed, in the absence of his esteemed friend Mr. T. Tweddell, to present to Mr. Bastard a specially bound copy of the Wholesale Societies' Annual. Mr. Fleming had a presentation made to him when he came out on the horizon as one of the luminary stars last year, and he (the speaker) was now presenting him with a similarly bound Annual. He was pleased to give Mr. Fleming the volume, and to congratulate him on his services to the movement.

Mr. FLEMING, who replied first, said, although he occupied the junior position, he came forward first, so that the closing word of Congress might be left with the president, who was so highly deserving of their thanks. They would permit him to acknowledge with a double sense of gratitude the kind words that had been said. There was no pleasure in life so unalloyed as the recognition that they enjoyed the confidence and esteem of their friends and colleagues. That pleasure had been given to Mr. Bastard and himself in an unstinted manner.

The PRESIDENT rose to reply amid cheers loud and prolonged. When the cheering had ceased, he assured the delegates that when he was asked first to take that position his shyness prompted him to do nothing of the kind; but the pressure was so great and so unanimous that he felt it impossible to do anything but bow to the wishes of his friends. He decided to accept the presidency only, and not to deliver the address. One of his colleagues, in the place where he was supposed to work, said to him: You will want a three-weeks' holiday after the Congress to get over it. Now that the Congress was over he did not think he would. Another gentleman had asked him: In what denomination are you a local preacher? He would not be ashamed to be a local preacher, but he was not one. He had never been so happy in his life. His duty had been no burden, no task.

His duty had been as light as if he had been sitting in his armchair at home. That, however, had been due to the kindness and consideration of the delegates. They had given no trouble, and some of them thought they should have a Congress every three months. He thanked the associations for the books presented to him by Mr. Gregory and his old friend Mr. Shotton. He had said to himself: It is the custom to present a specially bound copy of the Annual, and it will give me the greatest pleasure of my life to receive that at the hands of Mr. Shillito. Mr. Shillito had since passed over the border. The President mentioned that that was his thirty-second Congress. He claimed to have done a little spade work in the years gone by. Co-operation was a delightful work. He had worked among the people for forty years, and he was, he could not help being, delighted to see them lifted up by co-operative effort. During that Congress they had had a happy, prosperous, and pleasant time; and, when they transferred their operations to Lancaster, he hoped they would be equally happy there. He concluded by thanking the delegates again for all their kindness and consideration.

The PRESIDENT invited the delegates, in accordance with our old custom, to join hands together and sing "Auld Lang Syne." The delegates rose and the strains of the old parting song filled the hall. Loud, inspiring cheers followed, but ere they died away the patriotic spirit sought expression and the memorable Congress closed with the delegates singing "God Save the King."





APPENDIX.



MEETINGS AND EVENTS CONNECTED WITH CONGRESS.



PUBLIC MEETING AND CONCERT.



SATURDAY, 22ND MAY, 1915.



ADDRESSES BY MESSRS. W. J. DOUSE AND R. FLEMING.

Following the Reception to the Central Board was a great Concert-Meeting in the De Montfort Hall, when music was rendered by the Leicester Co-operative Choir and well-known vocalists.

Mr. AMOS MANN, the president of the Leicester Co-operative Society, was in the chair, and briefly opened the proceedings with words of welcome to the visitors and of encouragement to local co-operators.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BROTHERHOOD.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE was the first speaker. He spoke of the glorious co-operative brotherhood of which the Congress was the visible sign. For forty years his soul had been breathing the prayer of concord. The Creator

intended that his people should live together on terms of peace and amity. Every discordant note was an offence against humanity. The late Sir Michael Costa was once conducting an orchestra of a thousand performers when he stopped the performance and found, so well attuned was his ear, that one man was not performing his part. But it spoilt the whole effect. That man felt there was no necessity for his effort. And yet no matter how poor they were—the very poorest man at the lowest rung of the social ladder could enter into the co-operative movement if he was willing to perform his duty. He was as welcome as the man at the top of the ladder. Co-operation gave a dignity to labour—it gave it responsibility and secured for it justice and equity. It sought the social uplifting of mankind and appealed to those who were not members to join the co-operative movement. Looking to the future Mr. Douse concluded with an eloquent peroration against the wars that devastated the earth and delayed the advent of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

ADDRESS BY MR. R. FLEMING.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Belfast) brought a greeting of goodwill from Ireland to Leicester. The citizens of the town had, in the past, played a heroic part in the struggle for reform. In the days of the Roman occupation Leicester was a fortified encampment by means of which the people sought to maintain supremacy. Leicester was still one of their fortifications, and they looked with confidence to their comrades to hold aloft the banner of Truth and Justice and bear a part in industrial reform. Co-operation meant working together with a definite purpose in view. It was indicative of harmony, concord, and brotherhood. It was the direct antithesis of individualism upon which present society was constructed, the feeling which urged each to secure his own good regardless of the injustice he did his neighbour. An old writer had said: "There is nothing new under the sun." That was true of co-operation. A co-operative society was an organisation of men and women which sought to promote the interests of every individual member of the community. Whilst the active principle of co-operation was associated effort, and, as Mazzini had declared, "Association is the word of the Epoch," it did not lose sight of the individual. The greatness, the power, and the prestige of a nation depended upon the character of self-respect of the individuals of which it was composed. So the power and strength of the co-operative society was not to be measured by capital value, by trade, or the number of its members, but by the conception which each member had of co-operative principles and the extent to which they were devoted to carrying them into effect. The 19th century stood out as the age of progress—the invention of the telephone, the printing press, and machinery; but the future student of history would regard it as the century during which mankind learned the value of associated effort, the century of the friendly society, the trade union, and the co-operative movement. They first sought to make provision for the day of distress, the trade union

sought to secure for the worker better conditions of life and labour, and the co-operative movement went further than either for it made the worker a leader of trade and commerce, and made him the arbiter of his own social destiny. Sir Robert Peel had said that the salvation of the worker depended upon his taking his own affairs into his own hands. That was what co-operators sought to do. There was a vast amount of poverty and distress which by order and arrangement might be prevented. It was the business of co-operation to supply that order and arrangement. Nature supplied a sufficiency of good things, but our commercial and industrial relationships had resolved themselves into an unholy scramble that while they had a few surfeited to excess the great majority were content to live lives of penury. Co-operators preached no revolutionary doctrine but they did impeach the system which caused such dire and awful results. Co-operation was a living protest against those conditions. The good of the people was the supreme law, and co-operators proclaimed that which was for the good of all. A terrible conflict was waging in Europe the aftermath of which was too horrible to contemplate. Man was hacking his way into the barbaric state. Might it be for co-operation to show mankind a more excellent way. They protested against the crime. They would have some fearful problems to confront them in years to come. Everything was going into the melting pot. As a movement it was up to them to give mankind a new idea. They would go forward with faith, confidence, and courage.

P.S.A. SERVICE

SUNDAY, 23RD MAY, 1915.

ADDRESS BY MR. R. RAE.

A large number of delegates and others attended a P.S.A. service, held at the De Montfort Hall, in connection with the Congress. The Chairman was Mr. W. Millerchip, of Walsall.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Sunderland) gave an address dealing with man's rights and responsibilities. He indicated that those who were trying to help industry out of the mire were oft-times faced with men claiming their rights. There were three great chords in that cry. The predominant note was the right to live, and the right to work in order to live. While not denying the right of man to live, he wanted him to feel that there rested upon him the responsibility to live the life as man lived in a man's world. If a man claimed the right to work, there rested upon him the responsibility to work, and not to shirk. Another note in the great cry—a sub-dominant note he admitted—which became more distinct as time went on, was the right to know. Men

were beginning to see and feel that ignorance had always been and always would be trodden under the heel of knowledge. Therefore, he wanted to know, and claimed for his children an opportunity he did not have himself. He claimed for the duke's son and the cook's son an equality of opportunity, and no more for either. Mr. Rae reminded the meeting that in the educational movement associated with the co-operative society opportunities were afforded members and their children to acquire knowledge. The third note in the cry was that men were asking, and asking with justice, for the right to serve in their day and generation, and to take part in the public life of the time. This was part of an innate desire to serve, and the spirit of brotherhood spread throughout the world. It was this spirit which was the essence of the co-operative movement.

JOINT MEETING.

MONDAY, EVENING, 24TH MAY, 1915.

The absence of delegates from other countries, owing to the war, prevented the holding of an International Session of the Congress on the Monday evening. Instead, that evening was given up to a meeting, under the combined auspices of the Women's and Men's Guilds and the Workers' Educational Association, which was held in the Congress Hall. Mr. Bastard (president of the Congress) occupied the chair, and accompanying him on the platform were Mrs. Barton (Women's Guild), Mr. W. R. Rae (Central Education Committee), Mr. W. H. Watkins (Men's Guild), Councillor McTavish (Portsmouth, Workers' Educational Association), Mr. F. Hall, M.A. (director of studies for the Co-operative Union).

Part of the evening's programme consisted of musical contributions by local artistes, all of which were enjoyed by the audience, which was wonderfully large notwithstanding the excellent weather that prevailed and the counter attraction of the Guards' Band in the park close by the Congress Hall.

The CHAIRMAN dispensed with an opening address beyond a few words. He welcomed the audience and explained that the meeting was taking the place of the International Session for the reasons already mentioned. He expressed regret at the absence of the Rev. Wm. Temple, who was announced to be present but who had not been able to get away from America. His promise to be present, the Chairman stated, was given in good faith, he had every intention of being present, but he had not been able to get away from America in time. In these circumstances they were to have an address later in the evening from Mr. McTavish. He introduced Mrs. Barton, who was to speak on

“THE AFTERMATH : WOMAN’S OUTLOOK.”

Mrs. BARTON said that, in cases of crisis such as we were passing through this year, it would almost seem as if women were of no account. It had always been said that women could not bear arms ; that women must wait and weep. She was going to put before that meeting a different aspect of the question. She was going to ask whether it was really the case that women were of no account. Women, she said, might weep. Women did weep ; but women had also to work and they had to bear the cost and they had to bear suffering. Women were now suffering, suffering perhaps more than any other members of the community, because of the rise in the prices of food. They were suffering because of the pulling at their heartstrings because of the absence of loved ones. They were suffering, too, because in many cases the old ideas of education they had fought and struggled for were being undermined, and boys and girls were being taken before their time into industry. There were half a dozen problems there to be contended with. The one she wished to deal with that night was one of the greatest—the problem of woman’s labour. They knew that women were being brought out of their homes—women who, otherwise, could not have taken up any industrial position at all. These women were being drawn into the industrial market, and, out of that, were arising problems which every thinking man and woman must feel was his or her own. A way out of the difficulties that had arisen must be found so that, afterwards, we would not have such a horror as men walking about idle while women did their work because women’s labour was cheaper. They ought to be discussing the question of trade-union conditions for women equally with trade-union conditions for men, and they ought to be discussing the question of equal pay for equal work. When she spoke of “equal pay for equal work” she could not help feeling that another problem arose. It seemed to her that in many industries, because of this influx of women’s labour, things would alter. If she took one industry, for example, her audience might perhaps understand what she meant. She would take the grocery trade which affected co-operators. The delegates had been told in Congress that day that societies were taking on women instead of men to do men’s work. Now, they were not exactly doing men’s work. The men behind the counter, for instance, did the packing of dry goods in their slacker moments so as to be ready to serve these goods at the busier moments. Now the grocery trade had introduced packing departments in connection with the shops ; these goods were being packed by girls and women. When they considered the question of equal pay for equal work, they would find that these girls and women were not doing equal work with the men who had left their positions. The whole organisation of this industry would have changed, because of the influx of female labour, by the time the men were ready to return to their work. They would then have to solve the problem and say whether it had not been found cheaper to continue in this new way than to go back to the old conditions. If they did not go back to the old way, they would have these

women taking the places of the men and their wages will be less. Every man and woman ; and every man, particularly, who was in a trade union, should think this matter well out now to see if they could not come to some conclusion that would be just to men and women, instead of waiting till the matter had got into such a position that it could not be altered. The existing situation, Mrs. Barton went on to point out, meant that all their laws were being changed from day to day in a way that was hardly realisable. They of the democracy, she urged, must understand these changes. They must see that they suffered as little as possible from such changes ; and if they were to suffer as little as they possibly could, it meant that women must take their share in public control. The position of the woman—being in the house doing household duties—was being changed. She wished, at this stage, to pay a tribute to the Co-operative Women's Guild for the fact that in their committees in towns and cities they had women doing splendid useful work because of the training they got in Citizenship and kindred subjects through the guild. The old idea of the woman's position in the municipality and in the State have changed too. They had to realise that they had to press home the realisation of that fact to other people, and they had to demand that women should have a share of public life and duty. Nobody could say now that the women's place was only in the home. They had been coming out of it. The co-operative movement had been taking up industries like jam-making, and they had co-operative laundries, and these were doing what women did, and were still doing, in their own homes. It was right that these things should be done by the movement so as to give the women time and leisure so that they would have mental energy to tackle such problems as confronted us. Woman could never be forced back into the narrow walls of the home—she had to come *outside* so as to be able to understand the conditions that affected the *inside* of the home. People, she remarked, ought not to forget the part the woman was playing at present ; but, when she had a share in public control, the woman could play a larger part. In Germany the idea was that the three things for women were the Church, the kitchen, and the children. These were what the Emperor himself laid down as the only things that concerned women. It was Prussian Militarism we were fighting now ; but, she reminded the audience, women had played no part in that system. The situation in Germany made one feel that Militarism and Feminism were of antagonistic natures. Women did not wish for war. They knew too well what war meant. Women would have considered well before we should have been in the midst of this war. In Germany the women had no voice in public control—they, indeed, had not been supposed to have any brains at all. In this country the women were teaching even those who were against them to recognise that they wished to work as comrades with the men in all things that affected the nation as well as their homes. Both men and women would, after this, need a greater zeal for education for they would have to look after the interests of their boys and

girls. Coupled with that education they would want to have human love of fellowship—including the love of other peoples—inculcated. They should want to teach all our children to love the other peoples of the world. They wanted their movement to rise and to grow until they should have a real co-operation extending its influence throughout the world in the future. War was based on greed and selfishness ; co-operation was based on fellowship, love, and comradeship. She asked co-operators, therefore, to see to it that in the future education in our schools this love and fellowship should be one of the guiding principles. Great crises, such as that through which the world was passing, very often lifted people out of ruts and grooves into which they had got ; and it should be their duty to see that they did not fall back again into our old ruts. She wished that they could rise out of the present chaos with greater love for their fellow men and women, and build up a new civilisation in which men and women would work together side by side for the interest of all. She pointed out that women in the past had not been trained for public service ; and in this connection she reminded the audience of Mazzini's complaint that people "brought up their daughters as if they were side-board ornaments and then found fault with their frivolities." She hoped that, in the future, the recognition of the municipality and the State would be given to woman so that she would be able to carry into public and private life the ideals of truth and courage. Then, on a given basis, they would build up co-operation on the ideals of which their own nation should be built ; and never again should they witness what they were witnessing—the peoples being crushed down while others were getting the benefits. The people of the same country had the same enemies to fight. Men and women had the same enemies to fight. The wage-slaves had a united enemy to fight. It was, therefore, by walking side by side as comrades that we could hope to achieve the Co-operative Commonwealth which many of us held to be the greatest ideal we could have.

MEN AND THE MOVEMENT.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS, who took for his subject "Men and the Movement," said that the Chairman, earlier in the meeting, voiced the regret of himself and all assembled that the usual International Session of Congress on the Monday evening could not possibly be held this year because their continental friends were not there with them in Congress. Since it was customary now to talk in military terms might he say the absence of their friends from the continent had been the cause of another Home Triple Alliance. The Co-operative Women's Guild, the Workers' Educational Association, and the Co-operative Men's Guild had never appeared together in semi-public before, and he was sure they would all agree with him when he expressed the hope that the compact—the informal compact—might not soon be dissolved. Mrs. Barton, who preceded him as a speaker, said there were those who thought and said that women were not to be taken into account. Whoever they might be he personally and on behalf of the

National Men's Guild desired to disassociate himself and the guild from that expression. In his judgment women were to be taken into account all the time, and those who did not take women into account in regard to social, domestic, and national affairs made a very great mistake. That, at any rate, was his view of the matter. In the society over which he had the honour to preside they had recently made a discovery. They were amending their rules and they wanted to get some information as to the number—the relative number—of men and women in their society. Their general secretary went to work and he proved to them that out of a membership of 40,000, over 30,000 were women. Since then he had been moved to carry the investigation still farther and through the society's office he approached twenty of the largest societies in the country on the matter. The societies had an aggregate membership of 603,000; that was to say one-fifth of the membership of the whole movement. Out of the twenty societies five of them said three-quarters of their members were women; from another five societies they ascertained that three-fifths of their members were women; from a third five that from a half to three-fifths of their members were women, and from three of the societies they gathered the fact that they did not know the proportion of women to men—they did not take women into account. In one only of the twenty societies—and that the smallest—were the women in a minority of three to one. What was happening at the present time? Where women were in a minority in a society they were joining in the ratio of two to one, and where they were in a majority they were joining in the proportion of seven to one man. He asked them to bear in mind the fact that in the largest societies in this country women were joining at the rate of seven women to one man, and to ask themselves if it did not mean that women were going to be taken into account. What were the men going to do in this matter? Were they going to leave the co-operative store and the Wholesale Society to be a woman's store or were they going to take it on to the next step and allow women to perform the functions of women, or were they going, as the Americans say, to get a move on themselves? There was evidence, he thought, that the men realised the situation, inasmuch as, as the Chairman had told them, the men had formed themselves into a men's guild. The guild had now been at work three years; its membership at the present time was about 3,000, and there were eighty local branches of the national body. There were several reasons which he would like to adduce why the men should take more serious notice of the co-operative movement as a whole in its practical everyday working than they did. He knew as well as they did that the majority of committees and those who managed societies were men, but that was not quite what he meant. Mr. Lloyd George had stated that the income tax returns showed great buoyancy—a very nice way of putting it. What did that mean interpreted in plain language? It meant that the rich were getting richer; that their share of the national income was getting larger and larger. He (the speaker) said to the men co-operators,

What are you going to do about that ? He also asked them this question, What is the movement for ? Was it simply that their wives should purchase goods—pure goods—at nominal prices and get the dividend at the end of the quarter ? Was their conception of the movement this : That it was a kind of a savings bank, that it was a means of accumulating capital which they might venture to employ in production ? Was that their view of the co-operative movement ? Or were they going to take steps to use the movement for what it really was or what its founders desired it to be—a machine or an instrument for building up a new social system in which those who had land and wealth should not exploit their fellows—a system under which the people who laboured should own the land and the means of production ? Unless they realised that their movement was such a machine, such an instrument, they were losing the whole point of co-operation altogether. Was it worth thinking about ? Was it worth studying ? Was it worth taking up ? If it was not worth those things, then let them hand themselves over body and soul to the trusts and syndicates and the combines, as there were no other means of emancipating themselves as workers from the condition of wage slavery, as their Socialistic friends called it. He appealed to the men to allow women to come into the movement to play their part. Should he call it the receptive part ? That was perhaps woman's function in life generally and in social life. At the same time he wanted the men to put their initiative and their virility into the co-operative movement, and they would find it would not only amply repay them, but that it would become in truth the means of social and general salvation.

THE IDEALS OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Councillor J. McTAVISH (of Portsmouth and the Workers' Educational Association) was the third and last speaker. He took the place of the Rev. W. Temple, M.A., who had been unable to get back from America in time to attend the meeting. Councillor McTavish took for his subject the one chosen by the Rev. Temple—"The Ideals of the Workers' Educational Association." He said there were people who still clung to the idea that the good old times were the best—probably because they were not born in them—and people who thought that working-class children should not be educated, because it tended to take them away from that position in life which providence and a kind master intended for them. Apart from those people, they all believed in education in a sort of abstract way. They could agree that in some measure it was necessary for the salvation of their bodies, their minds, and even their souls. But there were thousands upon thousands of men and women in this country at present—seekers after the truth—who were grappling with the powers of darkness and trying to see life as a whole with nothing to help them other than a few books, which, having led them a little way, left them in a blind alley. On the other hand there were hundreds of teachers from their colleges, universities, and schools ready, willing, and anxious to give assistance to these seekers after the truth.

The problem had always been, "How are we to bring the two together—the scholar and the teacher?" That was the problem the Workers' Educational Association had set itself to solve, and so successful had it been in the last seven years of its existence that he was convinced it was not only going to stay, but it was going to make a big dent in the history of the country. It had accomplished a solution of the problem, or was working to that end, by means of tutorial class teaching, which had "taken on like wildfire." At present there was not a university, not only in England, but in Australia and New Zealand, that had not a group of tutorial classes under its auspices, led by university dons, who were not dons, but students learning from the scholars of the classes something of the real, hard facts of life. To illustrate the marvellous growth of this movement, he stated that in 1907 and 1908 they had two classes of sixty students. Last year the two classes had grown to 145, and the sixty students to 3,334. Each of those students was pledged to do three years' serious work. This remarkable movement was not confined to the United Kingdom. As the result of the work done by the pioneer and founder (Mr. A. Mansbridge) it had been taken up in Australia and New Zealand, and when the war was over it would be taken up in Canada. For the first time in the history of the country ordinary working men sat down at the same board with the brightest intellects of the universities to discuss on a footing of equality working-class educational needs and working-class problems. They considered how to bring the university to the people and the people to the university. All the joint committees were having pressure continuously brought to bear on them to form more classes. Unfortunately their finances were limited. Last year the Oxford joint committee alone had to refuse six applications. That meant that 150 men and women—seekers after the truth—had to be turned away from the wells because there was no money; and yet they were spending two millions sterling a day on war. Who was to blame? They could not say it was the Board of Education, for it had made grants to the extent of £12,000. The universities had paid more than £17,000. But despite the grants of the Board of Education and the universities, not a single working-class organisation, and not a single national trade union as such had contributed one penny piece to any one of these classes. Yet, since the beginning of the movement, five thousand men and women had received a three years' tuition equal to university standard, and the vast majority had been trade-unionists. At last, however, there were evidences that the trade union movement was beginning to realise the importance of this work, and a few days previously a conference representative of all trade unions pledged itself to do everything possible to place this important movement on a more satisfactory basis. When it was done, they could go to the universities, and tell them that the £17,000 was not nearly enough. They must remember that many of the large endowments to the universities were given for poor scholars, the only conditions being that they must be poor and they must be scholars. Continuing, he said perhaps never in the

history of the country, or the history of the world, had the work done by the Workers' Educational Association proved more valuable than it had done at present. The country was involved in a world war, and perhaps the most remarkable thing about it was that the majority of the people went about their ordinary vocations. Because they could not witness the battles and the courage of the lads who stopped the gaps, they failed to realise the terrible extent of the war. What was this terrible struggle about? He could give a dozen different answers to that question—everyone equally true. But the fundamental fact was that it was a war between the spirit of democracy and the spirit of militarism. If, at the end of the struggle, the common folks were to be masters of the country's destiny—if they were to lay the foundations of a permanent peace—they would have to give far more time, far more thought, and far more money to education. What was true of the struggle of nations was equally true of the struggle of the common folks. All that they knew of history was that the causes of the common people had been lost, not through treachery, not through lack of courage and goodwill, but through ignorance. If the working people of this country were even to occupy that state which their means justified them in expecting, it could only be done when they became as knowing as their masters—when their knowledge and intelligence was equal to that of their masters. In the past the watchword of labour had been "Organise." They had to add to that the further watchword "Educate." That was the great need of the working classes. He submitted that appeal on behalf of the Workers' Educational Association because it stood for education, and worked for education in the truest sense. It stood for an educational aisle along which the people might pass. It stood for the development of the power to think for oneself; to weigh evidences and to form reasonable and right judgment. Those were the three great needs of the working folks: and because the Workers' Educational Association was working towards that end, he appealed to every true co-operator to give his sympathy and his support.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

TUESDAY, 25TH MAY, 1915.

"CITIZENSHIP."

Tuesday evening was devoted to a public meeting and concert, which attracted a large number of delegates. The gathering took place in the Congress hall, and the Central Education Committee and the Reception Committee had arranged a good programme for the occasion. The principal

speaker was the Rev. Charles Gore, D.D. (Lord Bishop of Oxford), and he took for his subject "Citizenship."

Mr. W. R. RAE (chairman of the Education Committee) presided, and with him on the platform, in addition to the Right Rev. Chas. Gore, were the President of the Congress (Mr. George Bastard), Mr. Amos Mann (president of the Leicester Distributive Society), Mrs. Barton (president of the Women's Guild), Mr. H. Williams (chairman of the Local Education Committee), and Messrs. W. H. Watkins (chairman of the National Co-operative Men's Guild), C. E. Wood (secrétary of the Central Education Committee), F. Hall, M.A. (adviser of studies at Holyoake House), A. Mansbridge (secretary of the Workers' Educational Association), members of the Central Education Committee, and many prominent local co-operators. The musical portion of the programme was in the hands of the Leicester Co-operative Prize Choir and soloists well known in the town and district, and the audience showed appreciation of their efforts in no unmistakable manner. Miss May Williams (daughter of the chairman of the Society's Education Committee) was the accompanist and Mr. G. S. Bosworth the conductor of the choir.

In open the proceedings, the CHAIRMAN said, instead of making remarks, he was going to make an introduction. Those who were co-operators knew how much educational work they tried to do in the movement, and how handicapped they had been because they had not an educational expert. It would be difficult to find an educational expert to turn loose in the movement; but he thought they had got the right kind of man. Co-operation began at Rochdale, and so did their expert; co-operation began in the homes of industry, and so did their expert; co-operation was poor in its beginning, and he was not rich. After attending the British School and higher school, he worked as a clerk and spent his spare hours in studying, so that he knew what it meant to work and study first one hour and then another. Those studies were crowned with success, and he was now Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and above all, a co-operator. It was rather significant that the first class Mr. Hall taught, apart from classes at Sunday school, was one gathered together by the employés of the society in Rochdale. He then introduced Mr. Hall, who was greeted with loud and continuous applause.

Mr. HALL thanked the Chairman for the kind words with which he had introduced him. From the Chairman's remarks he surmised that some account of the faith that was in him was wanted. He said he took his appointment seriously. He became a teacher and remained a teacher, because he was a social reformer. It was the study of social questions which convinced him of the importance and necessity of education as a factor in social reform. What did they find? The principal enemies of social progress were, on one hand, indifference, on another hand, selfishness, and on all hands, ignorance. It was the despair of the social reformer that he found people suffering from economic pressure the most indifferent people.

It was extremely difficult to rouse them and cause them to interest themselves in their own welfare. How, then, were they to rouse them except by education? They found on the other hand there was this great selfishness. How were they to overcome that except by showing people there was a better way? He took his appointment seriously because he held those views, and believed that it was only through education that they would make their advance to the end they desired. If that were true of general education, he took it to be specially true of co-operative education. The Chairman had hinted that he had studied social and economic problems from the point of view of the working-class home. He had also studied them from the point of view of the business manager and the commercial traveller, in the university class room, and as a teacher and a professor of commerce. When, as the result of his studies, he came to the conclusion that there was no hope except in the co-operative movement, he thought they would agree that he was wise in taking up the appointment. While the world was full of movements anxious to regenerate it, and while there were people trying to organise the world, he thought it could be claimed for the co-operative movement that it had this supreme difference—it inspired people to work for their own welfare, and provided the machinery by which that welfare could be achieved. Co-operation was a better way of trading. Those who had been on the road as commercial travellers knew something of the hardships and difficulties of commerce. They knew that to take an order from a competitor was essential to the progress of their business. What became of the man who missed the order was a matter of indifference. Instead of antagonism the co-operative movement offered the hand of friendship. Besides being a better way of trading, co-operation was a mode of life with a spirit of social relationships. Instead of trying to succeed at the expense of others, it taught them that the way to work was to co-ordinate their efforts in working for a common end. Proceeding, he said they liked to take account of their trading figures. They did right to take account of the extension of employment on a co-operative basis; but they should also take into account the degree in which the spirit of fellowship and friendship was spread in society. It was one of the most important tests they could have in the extension of co-operative ideas. If he held those views he was right in claiming that co-operation, besides being a better way of trading, was a religion, and that he who lived in true co-operation was leading a deeply religious life. If they held those views, the duty devolved on them of spreading a knowledge of their principles, and also spreading enthusiasm for their application. He took it from his appointment that co-operators recognised that they should extend still farther a knowledge of their principles and enthusiasm for their application. He had advocated a co-operative college, because he realised the great disadvantages of the working classes, by reason of their insufficient educational opportunities. Having himself suffered from lack of college opportunities, he was anxious that those who desired should have those opportunities. He

asked them seriously to think whether it was not important that they should give to their men and women opportunity for extending their education to more advanced stages than they now could do. He was anxious that all forms of educational activity should be spread; and with the desire that education should be applied to the uplifting of humanity he came to his new work with high hopes. He hoped that from their educational work there would spring men and women inspired by an enthusiasm for the application of co-operative principles, so that those who came after them would see that they had made it possible for the movement to progress to still higher achievements.

The CHAIRMAN was sure that the heartiness of the applause meant that they were wishing Mr. Hall "God-speed" in his new venture. Continuing, he said when Mr. Hall was a Professor of Commerce at Belfast, he had fifty teachers and he did not know how many scholars under him; and he was quite sure that, although he was not such a big man as the speaker, he would make a far bigger name in co-operation before he died.

Dr. Gore, who was introduced by the chairman (Mr. W. R. Rae) as an "old and valued friend of co-operation," before proceeding with his address moved the following resolution:—

That this educational meeting, held in connection with the Co-operative Congress, viewing as it does with disfavour the employment of child labour, is strongly of opinion that any relaxations governing such labour should be jealously guarded, lest such relaxations become permanent. It is also resolved that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Prime Minister.

Proceeding, he said it was a long time ago that he undertook to speak that night at the Congress on the subject of "Citizenship." He was not sure whether it was before the war or whether it was at some period when an unusually sanguine outlook had enabled him to suppose that he might be speaking after the war. But, at any rate, at that particular moment he found that any approach which his imagination could suggest to the subject of citizenship was barred by the tremendous and threatening figure of war. He could not conceive any one at that moment being able to speak or think about citizenship without reference, immediate and direct, to that which, with a threat more awful than any threat which in their time had even seemed to come near them, was overshadowing the whole prospect of civilisation, and all that they knew or cared for under the name of citizenship.

DUTY TO GO TO WAR.

He met a number of people who told him that if they had been in this or that or the other way different they would not have gone to war, and that the war was not necessary, and that, he was quite

sure, was true. Anything so devilish could only have been rendered necessary by what was calamitously evil and calamitously widespread in Europe. He could take that for granted, but it was not much comfort to him because they had to deal with men as they were, and under circumstances as they were he, for his part, was not able to entertain the shadow of a doubt that it was their duty to go to war. That being so, he was sure also that it was their duty to carry through this terrible and tremendous war with a concentration of all their faculties, material, moral, and spiritual, and to make this the first and most direct object upon which the whole of their imagination and thought and organising power and personal self-sacrifice was directed.

He would tell them why he said that. They were getting into the eleventh month of the war. They knew, all of them, what it had meant and what it was meaning in the way of expenditure, of which the money wealth expended had been the smallest and least significant part. How often had they read news of the advance of the Allies, but after all these months—ever since the great initial success, the turning back of the Germans before Paris—he asked them had not the situation, on the whole, seemed to remain stationary? Could they deceive themselves? They used to talk about the steam roller. It had not rolled. They used to say they would be in Constantinople by Easter. They had not got there; they were even now a long way off; and in the great Western theatre of the war they had seen nothing but sudden and precarious fighting swaying this way and that. Now, he asked them, suppose they went on carrying on the war in the same spirit in which they were doing it now. Supposing it should go on as a drawn battle, or a drawn war, until the faculties of all nations were absolutely exhausted, and stopped somehow in the way the seven years' war stopped. What would be the result? The result would be an exhaustion of the whole faculties of the civilised nations of the world, which would, no doubt, secure some breathing interval, but which would throw them back upon precisely the old devilish spirit of the balance of power, or piling up armaments one against the other with an added impetus given in every country to militarism, and no other prospect except a series of wars until the whole civilisation, which had been built up by the efforts of so many through so long a period, had become a ruin. That was no vision. That, he believed, was really inevitable, unless they could accomplish that which they knew now was a more tremendously difficult thing than they imagined—so great, so gigantic was the organising power of Germany. They must utterly defeat, he did not say the Germans, but the power which possessed Germany.

MEANING OF CITIZENSHIP.

He was saying that, because strictly he believed that was the first necessity of citizenship. Anything short of that not only barred the way to the development of citizenship, but meant strictly and certainly the ruin for all Europe of all that they identified with the true spirit of things. It was for that reason—because he believed in carrying on the war to ensure that tremendous thing victory, because he believed that to be the first condition of the permanent spirit of civilised citizenship maintaining itself in Europe—that he said they needed a concentration of purpose and mind in England upon this subject.

At the present moment it was impossible for anyone to go among their wounded soldiers at Havre, or any of the places in France where they were, without finding them possessed, not with the idea which permeated certain newspapers, but possessed with the idea that they, in this country, did not care enough about them. He did not believe that was true, but he thought sometimes they had a funny way of showing how much they cared, and he thought they should look a little more persistently and fervently in that direction. He supposed they had all thrilled as perhaps they had never thrilled in their lives at the spectacle of the great and wide-spread self-sacrifice that was being made by their young men who had gone to the front, from the simplest and simplest desire to serve their country, knowing what was in front of them—wounds and death. He had been in personal and direct contact with them and it was impossible to over-rate the moral asset of such organised and concentrated self-sacrifice. This spirit of sacrifice was what, in every human being, constituted the nobility of life. While they had watched this going on, there had been in the minds of all of them a feeling that there was something generous and public-spirited in the action of these men. They felt that if they were to allow a sacrifice so vast and so generous for their country—not by one or two, but by hundreds of thousands—then the country for which they were suffering and dying must show it was worthy of a sacrifice so great. Those who stayed at home should be doing something which corresponded to the greatness of the sacrifice these men were making who were dying on the field of battle.

WHAT AM I DOING?

This matter should speak direct to the heart and conscience and will of every single one of them. They were bound to ask themselves, "What am I doing?" There was not one of them who would not be willing to make any sacrifice that a responsible Government said would be necessary to attain this great end. They

needed ten times the concentration they had got on this object. To his mind, the response which the country made to the suggestion, or demand—that it should give up intoxicating drinks during the war—showed something like a disquieting weakness in the country. The demand was made in a manner which showed that the King understood what the King of a democratic community should be. He should embody the best heart of the country, and act as the ordinary man at his best would act at the top, setting an example, embodying common spirit and feeling, to the country. But what happened? The appeal, or the suggestion, that the country should give up drinking intoxicants came up against a great interest, and it failed. The sacrifice was asked of the country and, speaking generally, it was not made.

INFLUENCE OF THE WAR.

In a great many directions their public life had felt the influence of the war. They had heard of great profits made out of the equipping and provisioning of the army. As the most natural and obvious repartee to that they had heard of strikes for higher wages. The second appeared to be the inevitable corollary of the first. What did all this mean? It meant that in a moment of supreme national necessity, people, inheriting the traditions of many generations of individualism, could not rise to that solidarity which the situation demanded. He refrained from any comment upon the very strange inconsistency that many of those attacking the nation in the sense now spoken of were people who had been the most violent assailants of Socialism in the past. The fact was that, in a crisis, a country exhibited those qualities upon which its general life had been nourished. Our general life had been nourished on individualism and on the interests of our own particular classes; therefore, in a time of supreme national emergency they showed that if they were to be able, and he believed they must become able, to concentrate, first of all, upon this terrible war in order that it should be finished by victory, they would have to repent, with a very big and thorough repentance, of the sort of individualism that made such concentration impossible. They had, therefore, to get something more of that solidarity which was the true spirit of citizenship.

He could not talk about citizenship without, first of all, talking about the supreme duty of citizenship—a duty which they were inadequately performing, and the inadequate performance of which would land them in the ruin of all that made up their citizenship. It threatened already as a terrible possibility, a terrible menace. They had got to get something of that spirit of solidarity that was the essence of true citizenship. If they did concentrate on this

terrible war they might learn something of the spirit and of the method of solidarity. By doing that they would not only save civilisation, but they would learn something which would be an incalculable gain in the future.

FOR THEIR OWN CLASS.

He was not disposed to quarrel with people for fighting for their own class; to fight for their own class was infinitely better than fighting for their own hand, and to fight for their class was the first step towards learning to fight for the larger unity to which they belonged. He was, therefore, all for seeing the workers organised as a class to consider and promote the interests of their class, and to pursue those interests steadily and courageously by all the means that belonged to men and citizens. At the same time, the more the real problems of citizenship became apparent, and the more the world became organised on the vaster scale, the more it became apparent that it was not any one class, or the faculties of any one class, that could manage politics or direct the affairs of the country. They wanted a fusion of all classes and sections and all points of view, contributing each its best, for a total which would reflect something better than the needs of any one class in the community. This was extraordinarily true at the present moment. If one happened to live more or less among two or three classes and had the opportunity of coming into contact with the way in which people of these classes discussed one topic, one became aware of the narrowness of the point of view. A particular point of view narrowed the vision. The greatest conceivable gain to their country, a gain that would be felt equally by all classes, would be the sense which had been the spirit of the greatest citizenship, the sense that they belonged to a country which combined all individuals and classes in a great solidarity, which had got a history that had brought out something for which they stood, something dearer than life itself and something which they might hand over—for better and not for worse—to the generations to come after them.

THE HEART OF THE SUBJECT.

This brought him to the heart of his subject.

Looking upon human history they found that there were great nations that stood out as patterns of citizenship. The "citizens of no mean city," whatever it might be, felt that its history—which meant the labours and efforts of their forefathers—had entrusted to them sacred principles and ideas for which they were responsible, something which they felt proud to have, and some-

thing which they held in trust for the nations of the earth. Though they were held in grip by the selfishness of the individual, or the family, or the class, they had still something binding them all together. There had been a separation of classes in England which was bringing us to the verge of civil war before this terrible war came and struck us into a sort of unity. This horrible war—so horrible that they were seized with a sense of oppression that they could not shake off—would have wrought for them an incalculable blessing if it taught them to feel once again that there was something for which this country really stood—an inheritance to maintain which they had even now made gigantic sacrifices, not only in money but in the best life of their country, in the safety of their homes, and in all they cared about. If we could think of the interests of the whole country; if, at the same time, labour could make a strong enough effort to be so organised as to make it impossible that it should be again exploited, we might, he thought, look forward with a free hope to the emancipation which they prayed might come to them after this war, and they might go on to develop something much nobler in the way of citizenship than they had been able to dream about in the years immediately past. That was his hope.

THE PART OF CO-OPERATION.

He was speaking to them as representatives of a movement which was taking a great and noble part in the strengthening of a real democracy. No one, of course, could ignore the part which the Co-operative movement had played in strengthening the power and combination of the working classes, and without that nothing could be done. The first thing was to combine, but the time came—and this was such a time—when they felt the inadequacy of any combination which did not lift them higher than the point of view and performance and attitude to their own class. They had got to secure the interests of their class. That first. Make no mistake about that. Having done that they wanted continually to extend and expand the sense of co-operation till it embraced all the elements necessary for a body politic in its widest and best sense. There was nothing so necessary at that moment for the Labour movement as knowledge, and it needed it—and this was only one reason—because knowledge was power, and would always have ignorance under its heel. Whatever temporary success Labour might gain over Capital, Capital would always recover itself and keep the upper hand so long as it had knowledge and Labour had not. The Labour movement also needed knowledge for another reason: it made it feel nobler and greater than it would be by material progress alone.

WHAT ENEMIES SAY.

It was often said by the enemies of the Labour movement that it had become materialised. He did not believe it. He believed the Labour movement was as full of spiritual ideals as any movement in humanity known to him at the present time. Then he was quite sure if those ideals were to become less visionary, more real, more practical, and, at the same time, made more effective in the true sense of the word—that was to say if they were to find out how ideals were really realised, whether political or social, they must have more knowledge. He would like everybody to be really acquainted with the history of his country. A friend of his was talking to a young man the other day who wanted to go out as a missionary, and he asked him to name the countries he would pass on his way to India. He said the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, and then, unfortunately, he got to Italy. He asked him who discovered America? He said Christopher Colombo. That was not so bad, but when the young man was asked Columbus' nationality he said, first of all, he was an Englishman, then he said he was an Australian. It made a tremendous difference to the mentality of a person who did not know on which side of the Suez Canal Italy was, or who said that Christopher Columbus was an Australian. It made a great difference if they had a true perspective.

LABOUR AND ITS MISSION.

If the movement of Labour were to realise its mission or its ideal it must devote itself with far more concentration to education. They could all get education, but, in particular, they had to look after the interests of the children, so he came back to the resolution he had moved. He could not, in this time of national emergency, move a resolution in opposition to the labour of children in every form and shape. He could conceive a very strict regulation under which it might be necessary and legitimate, and not uneducative to them; but with the resolution which had been put in his hands he had the most cordial agreement. In particular he wanted them all to notice that when Mr. Asquith was questioned regarding some relaxation of the law with regard to child labour, he put amongst the things absolutely necessary that wages for adults should be raised to a tolerable level before there could be an application made for the employment of boy labour. He was afraid that the requirements which the Prime Minister pronounced absolutely necessary had not been fulfilled in a number of cases. At present there had not been any great difficulty in regard to labour. It was possible there would be, but any relaxation of this kind should not

be entertained unless, first of all, wages had been raised to a tolerable level, especially in many counties. They must have a considerable rise in wages of agricultural labour before they could have any toleration of boy labour. They should be jealously guarded, lest such relaxations became regular.

A WISH FOR SUCCESS.

In conclusion, he wished them all possible success in their meetings, at the same time hoping that their preoccupation in the Co-operative movement would not suffer any Englishman, in the months that were to come, to forget that the nation and every citizen of the nation must concentrate with a tenacity of purpose upon finishing this task which the war laid on the nation.

The CHAIRMAN asked those in favour of the resolution to say "Aye," and the "Ayes" were given with a will, after which there was loud applause.

As the Bishop had to leave at this stage, the CHAIRMAN suitably conveyed the thanks of the meeting to him for his interesting address, and he was heartily applauded as he left the platform.

VISIT TO THE GARDEN SUBURB.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, 26TH MAY, 1915.

The rising of Congress on the Wednesday was followed by a delightful drive through the town and into the rural country not far away from the industrial centre. Nearly 800 delegates were the guests of the local productive societies, whose committees worked hard for the success of the trip. Mr. E. Bent (of the Morning Star Society) and Mr. H. Howkins (of the Wigston Hosiers Limited) were chairman and secretary respectively of the organising committee, and, having marshalled the forces, they set out together for the village of Humberstone, beyond which the Garden Suburb is situated, and where reside both the president of the distributive society and the secretary of the co-operative educational committee of the town of Leicester. The whole area of forty-eight acres is planned with a view to the preservation of natural beauties where the people dwell. The society was started by some of the workers of the Anchor Boot and Shoe Society, and has done much to demonstrate the capacity of working men to initiate and develop improved conditions of housing for themselves. Mr. J. S. Wilford (the secretary) and many of the committee welcomed the guests, entertained them to *al fresco* tea, and gave them opportunities of seeing the inside of some of the houses, as well as the excellent meeting-place above the co-operative stores on the estate.

A CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE DELEGATES.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, 26TH MAY, 1915.

There was a cordiality about the civic reception that won the hearts of the thousand delegates who participated in its enjoyment. In the gallery of the De Montfort Hall, Alderman North and Mrs. North received their guests shaking hands, with a geniality that stood little on ceremony.

A delightful programme of music was provided and refreshments afforded opportunity for conversation and fraternising with friends from far and near.

During an interval in the musical arrangements, Mr. G. Bastard took his place on the platform accompanied by the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., and other prominent members of the Congress. He expressed the delegates' deep sense of gratification at the kindness of the Mayor of Leicester. When his Worship heard that the co-operators were coming to Leicester he said, at once, that he recognised they were an important body, and that he would arrange such a gathering as that in which they were sharing. He (the speaker) had attended thirty-two Congresses, and he must confess they had had very few recognitions of that character. The mayor was an honourable competitor of their own; hence their pleasure at his recognition was enhanced.

Alderman North had a great reception on rising to respond to the presidential word of thanks. He said that both the mayoress and himself had experienced the most profound pleasure in welcoming their co-operative guests. The town had been honoured by their presence. They were a very broad and tolerant people in Leicester, and he hoped the time would never come when such things as competition in business would keep anyone occupying a prominent position in the town from the discharge of the duties and the observance of the amenities of his high office which, after all, were calculated to add very materially to the pleasure and interest of such a conference as the co-operators had held in Leicester. It was perfectly true they were competitors. It was a good thing they should have competition. It was good for those immediately concerned in the great industries of the country and also for the great masses of the people. They ought not to be so narrow as to allow any unworthy feeling to creep in between those who were trying to do their best for the industries of the country. It had been his privilege ten years before to do a very considerable business with the Scottish Wholesale Society, and he must say he had found them most honourable in their dealings. He and the mayoress had been struck with the heartiness of the handshake of the delegates. They were a body of men with a fixed definite purpose in view. It would be difficult to find another body of men of equal number to match them. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that it would not be so long before the Co-operative Congress again came to the town of Leicester.

THE CONGRESS EXCURSION.

PLEASANT DRIVE ROUND LEICESTER'S BEAUTY SPOTS.

A drive through some of the most beautiful country in Leicester provided the delegates with an enjoyable treat on Thursday. Seven hundred tickets had been issued for the trip, but these were early disposed of, and the demand was so great that a large number of delegates had to be "sent empty away," as, owing to the nature of the excursion, arrangements for an extra number could not be made at the last moment.

A long line of brakes—numbering at least thirty—were drawn up behind the society's central premises. These were filled shortly after breakfast, and the delegates, whilst waiting for the start, interestedly perused copies of the *Co-operative News* containing reports of the Congress proceedings. Eventually, however, the long line of conveyances moved off, amidst the cheers of the onlookers; and, leaving the streets of the town, proceeded by Groby and Groby Pool to Newtown Linford. Here a halt was made the while luncheon parcels, brought along by one of the Leicester Society's motor vans, were served out. The excursionists then dispersed to enjoy an *al fresco* meal. Two hours were allowed for a stroll through the beautiful Bradgate Park, which is famed for its ancient oaks, many of which present some peculiar formations. The ruins of the home of Lady Jane Grey, the eleven days' Queen of England, still remain in this park, and a large number of the delegates visited these, and listened with interest to the information given by Mr. E. Harrott (secretary of the Leicester Society's Educational Committee) regarding them.

Afterwards the brakes were rejoined and the drive was continued *via* Old John and Benscliffe Woods. The next stop was made at Longcliffe, which is famed for its beautiful woods, and for a healthily situated convalescent home, which was being used to recuperate soldiers wounded in the early days of war in Flanders and North France. A great many delegates chatted with the convalescents, and were much interested in their experiences at the front. On their side no doubt the wounded soldiers were rather surprised to see such a large number of people in the village, the "oldest inhabitant" having declared that it was the biggest crowd he remembered seeing in his lifetime. Notwithstanding this, however, the visitors had a good time, amidst beautiful surroundings. The quietness which characterised the place provided a pleasant relaxation from the discussion on the Central Board and the grant to the Women's Guild, and other such disturbing questions.

A good tea having been enjoyed, the return journey was commenced *via* Loughborough Quorn, and Mountsorrel. A short break was made at the latter place, and a number of the delegates took advantage of the occasion to give vent to their feelings by holding a singing meeting in the Square, whilst others enjoyed a short stroll. An unbroken drive into Leicester, which was reached just before nine o'clock, brought to an end a pleasant and very enjoyable day's outing.

Resolutions Passed at the Leicester Congress,

MAY, 1915.

1. European War.

That this Congress expresses its abhorrence at the carnage of war now being enacted throughout Europe. It puts on record its sense of indignation at the crime committed against Belgium and the disregard of the dictates of humanity by the German Government. It declares that no peace will be satisfactory, or can be permanent, which does not secure at least, first, the evacuation of Belgian territory by the invader, and, second, the future freedom of Europe from the menace of militarism. It also expresses a hope that provision may be made as speedily as possible for the setting up of an international tribunal to enforce the public law of nations and uphold the rights of small peoples.

2. Sources of Supply.

That this Congress, as a representative gathering of organised co-operative producers and consumers, expresses the opinion that serious and immediate consideration should be given to the question of securing further direct control of both raw materials and necessary sources of supply, and requests the Central Board to make the necessary arrangements for the discussion of the subject during the coming Congress year.

3. Honorary Members.

That the following gentlemen be appointed as honorary members of the Central Board for the ensuing year :—

Midland Section : Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.

Northern Section : Messrs. H. R. Bailey, W. Crooks, and T. Rule.

North-Western Section : Messrs. C. J. Beckett and G. Wheelhouse.

Scottish Section : Messrs. D. H. Gerrard and A. Meldrum.

Southern Section : Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, H. J. May, and H. H. Vivian.

South-Western Section : Messrs. A. Bullock, T. Gidley, R. R. Prynne, and C. Vaughan.

4. Co-operation with other Forces.

That this Congress agrees, in view of the opinion expressed by the votes of societies at conferences, that no further action be taken on the question of co-operation with other forces.

5. Conciliation Boards.

That this Congress approves the scheme now submitted for the appointment of conciliation boards, and instructs the United Board, in conjunction with the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés and other trade unions interested, to set up the necessary machinery to bring it into operation as early as possible.

6. Overlapping.

That this Congress regrets the decision of the Abersychan committee not to submit the boundaries dispute in their area to arbitration, such a course being detrimental to the progress of the societies concerned and to the welfare of the movement in the district. Further, it requests the United Board to renew its efforts to bring about a settlement in the best interests of all concerned.

7. The Co-operative Union and the Women's Guild.

That this Congress endorses the policy hitherto pursued by the Central Board, as the administrative authority of Congress, and confirms its right to withhold grants from any organisation which, in its opinion, is pursuing a policy detrimental to the best interests of the co-operative movement.

8. Auditor.

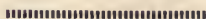
That Mr. T. Wood (Manchester) be appointed as auditor of the accounts of the Union for the ensuing year.

9. Place of Next Congress.

That the Congress of 1916 be held at Lancaster in Whit-week.



Resolutions of the Central Board.



AT ITS MEETING BEFORE CONGRESS, SATURDAY,
22ND MAY, 1915.

1. Women's Guild.

That the request of the Irish and Scottish Women's Guilds for grants of £30 and £150 respectively be agreed to.

2. Congress Resolutions.

Resolutions on the following subjects were considered and referred to Congress, viz. :—European War, Sources of Supply, Conciliation Boards, and Grant to English Women's Guild.

AT ITS MEETING DURING CONGRESS, TUESDAY, 25TH MAY, 1915.

1 Appointment of Committees.

(a) Committee on Education.

That the sectional boards be empowered to appoint representatives to this committee; also that the various educational committees' associations be allowed to appoint representatives to the committee, together with one representative from the Women's Guild, and one from the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Empolyés.

(b) Joint Propaganda Committee.

That one representative be appointed by the Midland and two by the North-Western Sectional Boards to act on this committee.

2. Trades Union Congress.

That the North-Western Sectional Board be empowered to appoint a representative to attend the Trades Union Congress, to be held at Bristol in September.

3. Conference of National Union of Teachers.

That the North-Western Sectional Board appoint a representative to attend the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, which is to be held at Blackpool during Easter, 1916.

4. Remuneration of Central Board.

That the United Board take into consideration the question of amending the rule to provide for a more adequate rate of payment to members of the Central Board both for attending Congress and other meetings.

5. United Board Meeting.

That the first meeting of the United Board be held on 19th June, 1915.

6. Central Board Meeting.

That the United Board be instructed to convene a meeting of the Central Board at the earliest possible date, in order that the policy of the Board in connection with the present position of the movement generally might be considered, and that the sectional boards be requested to send to the Central Office any suggestions which they may have to offer for discussion at that meeting.



STATISTICS

OF

SOCIETIES' TRADE, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Statistics of Societies' Trade

IRISH

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Distributive

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fndd.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
IRELAND.									
Armagh.....	358	3395	1355	406	1632	2964	..	859	687
bBallinagleragh.....	220	171	127	..	176	183	..	222	..
Ballymena and Harryville..	426	1641	49	71	371	211	..	1769	186
Belfast.....	12900	122210	10068	7778	37837	75695	8234	32638	1465
Coalisland.....	40	384	50	22	599	180	..	292	112
Cork (City of).....	625	681	..	53	389	420	..	415	354
Donaclooney.....	167	483	..	110	699	10	..	328	..
Drumaness.....	93	489	..	73	393	20	..	138	164
Dublin.....	1500	1596	203	733	2250	1570	..	1209	390
Dublin University.....	171	279	..	14	98	129	..	229	7
Dundalk.....	415	636	245	..	320	913	..	81	84
"Dunraymond.....	79	142	..	17	421	88	..	906	..
Enniscorthy.....	980	3671	7888	2770	8508	2681	..	630	6396
Enniskillen.....	228	680	26	56	291	92	..	552	224
Greenore.....	62	286	..	626	417	44	..	674	107
Gweedore.....	140	77	99	6	447	86	..	21	586
Inchicore.....	98	515	597	..	278	1067	..	90	25
Innisriel.....	119	82	548	207	742	84	..	125	901
Larne.....	102	421	209	..	190	234	..	321	291
Lisburn.....	1450	15800	569	1630	4557	5004	..	7941	3495
Lucan.....	159	304	256	355	309	568	..	416	88
Middletown.....	98	84	665	..	624	84	..	48	321
Millbrook.....	..	59	8	..	98	22	..	65	11
Moycullen.....	115	12	335	..	577	43	..	50	270
Newtownards.....	240	609	2	15	424	143	..	307	322
Ochilmore.....	130	185	514	..	525	78	..	63	630
Portadown.....	370	2496	505	222	719	626	..	1228	940
Queenstown.....	351	708	63	20	528	248	..	315	250
Rosslare Harbour.....	60	156	78	31	178	37	..	135	239
bShamrock.....	161	187	..	90	133	..	..	702	..
pSligo.....	246	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
South County Dublin.....	14	28	..	..	41	20	..	16	23
Springfield.....	52	415	211	1102	1111	80	..	..	1632
Templecrone.....	219	136	1831	744	1821	252	..	310	1964
pUlster (Belfast).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Wheat.....	80	24	..	..	186	96	..	57	183
	22518	159190	26501	17151	67889	93922	8234	53152	22347
cIrish Builders (Dublin)....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Total.....	22518	159190	26501	17151	67889	93922	8234	53152	22347

for the Year 1914.

SECTION.

Co-operative Societies in IRELAND, for 1914.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
						£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	s. d.
1	15	6	£ 726	£ 391	13629	571	150	1 0	..	..	7	1 15 5
2	..	..	47	..	1551	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	10	..	506	..	11460	650	72	1 4	..	13	7	2 3 3
4	410	71	25394	3950	364971	38088	5675	1 6	2025	882	468	64 1 2
5	3	..	186	..	4183	190	20	1 3	..	..	..	0 9 4
6	12	4	540	240	7765	345	24	0 10	6	3	5	3 4 8
7	6	..	185	..	4088	322	24	1 0	10	..	..	..
8	3	..	151	..	3088	261	22	1 6	10	..	6	0 11 0
9	21	12	1200	866	25000	1153	46	1 0	53	85	..	4 3 4
10	2	..	116	..	1619	56	5	0 8	3	..	..	0 18 9
11	5	..	121	..	1576	57	..	0 6	..	..	1	1 11 3
12	..	..	138	..	4445	38	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	22	28	1082	606	23226	544	183	0 3	14	..	17	..
14	6	..	286	..	5294	312	28	1 2	15	2	6	1 2 2
15	2	..	153	..	3280	180	14	1 6	6	..	1	0 6 3
16	2	..	120	..	3358	36	..	..	..	..	..	..
17	5	..	310	..	5267	157	24	0 7	..	..	..	0 11 0
18	3	..	220	..	7974	70	..	..	..	..	10	..
19	4	..	338	..	5237	90	13	0 9	..	..	..	0 11 6
20	86	7	2321	143	44619	4056	681	1 6	..	86	209	7 11 0
21	5	..	204	..	4369	814	14	1 4½	7	..	..	0 16 8
22	3	..	140	..	3754	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
23	2	..	2	..	8622	43	..	0 9	..	..	..	0 5 0
24	3	..	85	..	2459	64	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	4	..	271	..	2664	99	25	0 9	..	..	..	1 6 0
26	2	2	105	135	2909	..	95	1 3½	25	20	9	0 8 9
27	10	..	923	..	11507	767	24	0 10	..	..	..	1 15 5
28	9	..	460	..	8278	297	24	0 10	..	..	..	1 12 2
29	3	..	77	..	2579	242	6	0 8	5	..	..	0 6 9
30	..	..	109	..	5933	500	..	..	..	..	..	..
31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
32	1	..	2	..	538	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	5	..	202	..	15285	245	33	..	..	..	..	..
34	10	6	434	190	13498	391	..	2 0	..	..	12	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	1	..	10	..	8652	41	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 4
	625	136	37114	6521	617677	50186	7178	..	2179	1091	758	96 14 2
37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
	625	136	37114	6521	617677	50186	7178	..	2179	1091	758	96 19 2

4 Months Trading only.

8 Months Trading only.

MIDLAND

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
RUTLAND, SALOP, STAFFORD, WARWICK, and Part of WORCESTER,

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bidings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTHAMPTON & EARLS BARTON DISTRICT—									
Blakesley	60	104	..	..	100	26	..	69	65
<i>a</i> Braefield	257	3947	263	272	446	100	1012	3043	63
<i>b</i> Brington	118	317	..	80	246	11	..	249	..
<i>b</i> Brixworth	268	1778	1112	121	980	985	..	1768	..
Cogenhoe Self-Help	110	724	..	113	263	5	..	612	41
Daventry	900	18184	2212	302	3839	4293	6452	2151	171
Denton	87	275	..	83	172	106	..	117	22
Earls Barton	834	14199	911	1084	2925	8207	4271	1899	e75
East Haddon	49	118	..	57	179	..	..	67	4
<i>a</i> Ecton	99	425	..	191	285	..	..	446	26
Hackleton	174	1983	..	233	333	471	294	1149	e88
Harleston	153	476	23	50	428	59	..	220	..
Harpole	586	3969	3734	219	1550	2946	2208	1137	456
L.L.P. Boot	14	21	..	222	147	63	..	176	88
Long Buckby	925	16210	2194	988	2785	8008	8647	1189	..
Moulton	333	2456	391	1270	1037	1227	1293	687	128
Northampton	5998	33022	21208	4272	17559	26539	124	20378	..
Pitsford	64	223	..	44	136	10	..	193	..
West Haddon	166	984	215	84	541	533	..	272	56
<i>a</i> Yardley Hastings	246	2047	344	284	852	363	295	1344	..
Total	11441	96362	32607	9969	34753	53902	24596	37166	1283
No. 2—WELLINGBOROUGH AND KETTERING DISTRICT—									
Burton Latimer	754	14059	1968	940	2959	3804	9388	2259	50
Desborough	1700	47710	60746	2894	11232	25508	74203	3768	2063
Finedon	754	9283	1333	1442	2107	3429	2847	4749	213
Higham Ferrers	442	4020	986	420	1637	1222	..	3401	..
Irchester	378	5180	1728	299	1511	3460	1974	791	..
Irthlingborough	597	4498	1126	213	2018	3219	..	1578	279
Kettering	8060	192373	8787	5517	18957	35972	117231	46688	4130
Market Harborough	2595	20313	2132	1047	7542	13354	..	7499	372
Raunds Distributive	1100	12773	2383	567	5668	6525	2059	4141	e100
Ringstead Distributive	168	628	347	72	350	654	..	240	85
Rothwell	960	13620	2474	480	2542	6705	3400	5241	306
Rushden	2354	24649	4725	1043	7043	13060	3660	10814	116
Thrapston	453	2517	870	458	1265	2383	..	640	116
Walgrave Industrial	150	806	504	132	435	435	..	723	..
Wellingborough Midland	2876	38796	7462	3651	6897	10168	7090	33016	655
Wollaston	639	16388	2603	420	2438	2683	5844	10128	..
Total	23980	407563	100124	19595	71891	132581	227696	138645	8490

SECTION.

CAMBRIDGE, DERBY, LEICESTER, LINCOLN, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM,
for 1914, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to
the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	£	£					s. d.	£	£	£	£
1	2	..	93	..	1106	..	1	2	..	..	..	0	7	1
2	2	1	150	57	4940	604	128	2	2½	28	..	3	..	..
3	..	..	122	..	2670	346	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	..	..	327	..	6541	641	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	1	..	91	..	2030	263	21	2	10½	..	..	2	0	11
6	21	2	1091	120	20238	2484	494	2	0	7	19	34	4	6
7	1	..	62	..	1297	91	10	2	0	..	..	..	0	8
8	10	7	779	302	18997	2140	797	2	2	..	11	11	3	19
9	1	..	44	..	1159	124	7	2	0	..	..	..	..	..
10	1	1	68	48	2110	257	17	2	6½	1	..	..	..	..
11	1	1	133	72	4059	585	62	3	5	..	..	1	0	17
12	3	..	229	..	3427	430	20	3	10½	..	..	5	0	16
13	17	3	814	146	14276	960	135	1	3	..	..	22	2	18
14	3	..	214	..	3391	234	..	..	..	..	166	..	0	5
15	28	4	1138	328	25400	3375	508	2	2½	..	28	54	4	13
16	2	2	220	132	7215	728	112	2	1½	..	..	4	1	13
17	116	18	5734	1186	517645	6346	999	1	9	..	128	68	27	18
18	1	..	69	..	1332	127	11	2	0	..	..	..	0	6
19	3	..	133	..	2840	227	42	1	10	..	..	2	0	17
20	3	..	176	..	5092	603	96	2	2	..	..	1	1	5
216			39	11687	2391	245755	20565	3554	..	36	852	207	51	4
1	14	5	805	223	18162	2222	510	2	0	..	10	30	3	11
2	29	168	2319	8582	50736	4141	1821	2	0	..	20	75	8	10
3	15	4	898	219	20052	2231	403	2	0	..	3	25	3	15
4	7	3	419	157	9443	1467	155	2	6	..	10	15	2	1
5	4	4	356	184	15200	1600	200	2	2	..	6	7	1	19
6	14	3	988	162	17558	1799	214	1	11	..	..	19	2	19
7	115	65	7744	5016	185490	28689	6884	2	2	..	190	268	37	10
8	57	7	3120	554	52934	6309	809	2	0	..	75	80	12	1
9	29	5	1452	288	25826	2800	478	1	11	..	20	25	5	10
10	1	1	120	79	3463	369	28	2	0	..	..	3	0	17
11	15	3	1031	158	19493	2468	491	2	0	..	15	25	4	14
12	56	17	3394	662	62108	7060	940	2	0	..	64	53	11	11
13	8	2	374	120	8136	986	104	2	0	..	30	25	2	2
14	2	2	100	91	4187	464	36	2	4	..	..	4	..	..
15	61	21	4047	1237	85614	12139	1475	2	0	..	200	365	13	13
16	14	4	806	230	17800	2127	635	1	11	..	15	18	3	3
441			314	27973	17962	596202	76871	15183	..	..	658	1087	114	2

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fndd.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
WELLINGBOROUGH AND KETTERING DISTRICT—Con.										
Productive Societies:—										
aAvalon (Rothwell Boot and Shoe)	220	1942	6904	956	12841	4696	..	2969	6412	17
Crompton Boot Manufac. (Desborough)	268	4213	4246	20	4177	3357	275	124	3408	18
Finedon Boot and Shoe ..	28	4188	470	850	8558	697	..	405	4869	19
Higham Ferrers Boot & Shoe ..	251	4945	2798	1954	6109	3500	..	48	3275	20
Kettering Boot and Shoe ..	697	9495	7310	5967	12246	3790	..	2706	6039	21
" Clothing	1444	22841	22172	12282	33629	19050	..	7796	7880	22
" Corset M'facturers ..	377	5126	5357	1470	9649	3340	..	486	5802	23
" Union Boot & Shoe ..	270	1246	2858	675	4067	1240	..	4	1819	24
Northamptonshire Produc- tive (Wollaston)	186	2810	3546	1508	8032	2315	..	435	3045	25
Pioneer Boot (North'mp'n) ..	100	798	623	1000	2149	1153	..	53	20	26
Ringstead Unity	24	1134	..	223	6087	512	..	358	1225	27
St. Crispin Produc. (Raunds) ..	55	4388	1672	1534	10221	1650	..	883	5232	28
Wellingboro' Ideal Cloth'rs ..	1096	20253	17069	9408	22585	10998	..	22036	7302	29
" Midland Boot ..	195	4773	2886	1418	9825	1037	..	681	5182	30
Total	29191	495715	178035	58860	222066	189916	227971	177629	70000	
No. 3—LEICESTER DISTRICT—										
Asby-de-la-Zouch	556	1569	737	147	1339	1530	..	259	145	1
Barrow-on-Soar	194	673	63	..	492	67	..	128	25	2
Barwell	1125	17085	2316	526	5155	7174	5440	5079	..	3
Broughton Astley	130	971	222	68	568	512	..	237	..	4
Burbage	517	6468	346	210	2360	3112	1063	1860	58	5
Coalville	5209	48094	21350	6272	21254	19583	14631	26487	553	6
Cosby	183	1366	707	162	740	1588	..	332	..	7
Croft	180	661	395	52	564	30	..	647	68	8
Enderby	959	13858	2732	2141	4323	4258	7907	3943	348	9
Fleckney	436	1630	357	206	1227	1148	300	115	..	10
Glenfield	247	3594	1133	133	948	1075	2144	902	..	11
Great Glen	90	319	840	60	266	8	926	61	18	12
Great Wigston	1781	36477	7127	1943	7638	16433	15229	8908	..	13
Groby	156	2096	55	343	614	..	..	2154	..	14
Hathern	263	5113	1723	105	1342	1521	3173	1282	..	15
Hinckley	3151	57565	3085	2783	4371	4293	53100	9530	..	16
Huncote	157	2475	685	190	714	2278	347	209	..	17
Kirby Muxloe	127	940	315	143	393	634	..	433	..	18
Leicester	21765	274401	40275	8352	54496	146966	47551	95357	1018	19
Loughborough Industrial ..	558	1198	1268	26	924	320	1003	558	165	20
b " Wkg. Men's	429	1306	1176	..	1357	1242	..	682	..	21
Markfield	160	1197	63	185	479	418	200	529	34	22
Melton Mowbray	1370	6396	5632	823	3891	6424	763	2095	417	23
Mount Sorrel	384	2876	..	562	2121	1364	..	428	..	24
Oadby	207	3126	316	111	391	1012	..	2377	..	25
a Quorndon	203	866	167	49	580	..	..	681	69	26
Ratby	220	487	895	163	817	696	..	127	173	27
Rothley	237	869	..	185	764	256	..	208	150	28
b Sapcote	108	366	538	..	250	513	..	236	..	29
Shepshed	1191	28017	6478	219	4903	7184	5697	19938	308	30
Stoney Stanton (Hinckley) ..	266	2062	523	150	1076	1403	..	584	2	31
Whetstone	264	2124	..	132	771	24	788	1160	..	32
Total	42863	526245	101519	26431	127128	233075	160262	188366	3556	

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonuses on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
17	..	262	..	19745	71320	313	96	..	..	..	16	1 10 0
18	..	86	..	4291	23239	824	..	..	..	..	..	2 0 0
19	..	120	..	5352	26089	1447	208	..	73	..	25	1 0 0
20	..	91	..	5511	25913	1540	240	0 2½	354	24	18	1 12 0
21	..	223	..	15539	71256	3860	404	0 6½	1027	86	172	6 0 0
22	..	954	..	39829	140054	12411	2046	0 8½	3124	175	350	8 10 0
23	..	200	..	7909	37879	2077	439	0 6	419	50	73	3 0 0
24	..	64	..	3776	17586	986	62	..	..	10	14	2 5 0
25	..	110	..	6279	26601	1293	137	0 2½	310	18	108	1 10 0
26	..	16	..	1303	6759	281	..	..	..	109	..	0 12 6
27	..	82	..	2381	9864	926	411	..	..	..	2	0 5 0
28	..	180	..	11163	60448	4145	322	..	1776	1	75	1 1 0
29	..	742	..	31580	130167	11734	1368	0 9	2175	..	..	6 8 6
30	..	109	..	6850	33151	2343	299	0 8	729	154	65	1 5 6
	441	3553	27973	173470	1276928	121051	21215	9937	..	1285	1955	151 1 8
1	8	3	454	157	12021	1295	71	2 0	2	12	5	2 7 11
2	2	..	178	..	4365	450	..	1 6	..	..	..	0 19 4
3	33	5	1743	400	41364	5248	663	2 6	..	68	5	6 0 10
4	1	..	135	..	2177	261	43	2 0	..	..	1	0 13 9
5	9	2	539	199	15427	1987	292	2 6	..	..	21	2 12 6
6	127	34	7560	2566	172895	25491	2203	2 6	..	49	355	25 9 4
7	3	..	205	..	5324	733	63	2 6	..	..	9	0 18 9
8	1	1	181	70	4270	372	31	1 10½	..	..	6	0 13 10
9	20	6	1214	846	24980	3752	504	2 4½	..	..	27	4 15 3
10	5	2	369	125	9294	1254	67	2 6	..	..	6	2 3 10
11	2	1	205	106	4575	527	146	1 9	..	..	5	1 5 8
12	1	..	99	..	2070	151	15	1 8	..	..	..	0 9 0
13	35	11	2416	513	48218	6795	1410	2 0	51	45	47	9 2 11
14	2	1	150	108	4529	719	95	2 6½	..	..	4	0 16 6
15	6	2	371	151	7431	851	194	2 1	..	..	8	1 7 2
16	45	13	2975	779	75976	11736	2130	3 4	..	18	80	15 2 5
17	2	..	88	..	3052	419	86	2 0	..	8	1	0 16 0
18	1	..	136	..	2883	327	45	2 0	..	..	2	0 12 6
19	500	180	31841	10209	534990	61840	10780	2 0	1920	588	282	101 9 7
20	4	2	310	85	5658	617	38	1 10	..	8	2	3 9 9
21	..	..	484	..	10441	1281	51	..	..	..	..	..
22	3	..	352	..	4857	644	55	2 3	..	..	1	0 16 8
23	24	4	1226	342	23273	2763	277	1 6½	..	11	9	6 15 4
24	6	3	491	218	11732	1191	70	2 0	..	5	15	1 18 0
25	2	2	280	164	6783	916	122	2 3	..	..	6	1 10 2
26	3	..	194	..	4864	513	45	2 0	..	..	2	..
27	1	2	207	136	5363	575	21	2 0	..	..	..	1 0 7
28	5	2	267	67	6548	736	40	2 3	..	..	..	..
29	..	..	76	..	1202	107	4	..	..	..	..	..
30	20	7	1370	493	37159	5042	1150	2 0	..	85	10	6 0 0
31	4	3	224	160	5986	683	94	2 0	..	..	7	1 5 0
32	2	..	321	..	8578	1061	80	2 6	..	..	5	..
	877	286	56661	17896	1108285	140337	20885	..	1973	897	921	200 12 7

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
LEICESTER DISTRICT—Con.									
Productive Societies:—									
Excelsior Boot and Shoe (Sileby)	100	2355	3022	851	3172	2183	..	793	2434
Glenfield Boot and Shoe ..	246	3236	3629	1179	2410	1889	..	1697	2559
Leicester Anchor B. & Shoe ..	540	5458	6367	800	9728	6292	..	767	2555
" Boot and Shoe ..	975	12010	14664	2552	19207	8603	..	724	2080
" Carriage Build'rs ..	79	906	1598	..	1486	1664	..	23	439
" Printing	380	8107	8452	634	8950	11022	..	816	2883
" Self Help Boot & S (Barwell)	184	2129	1889	489	2114	2944	..	13	1613
" Thread Mill	50	625	134	..	415	453	..	23	125
a Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	135	1091	1083	135	1854	875	..	207	1205
Sperope Boot and Shoe ..	223	3115	6616	877	6445	1295	..	1256	2579
Wigston Hosiery	315	9191	1964	305	5994	6316	..	1146	2065
Total	46090	574468	150937	34253	183903	276611	160262	195836	24043
No. 4—COVENTRY DISTRICT—									
Atherstone	770	6760	1766	588	2721	3979	1578	1647	268
b Blue Lias (Stockton)	137	321	1	..	360	..	..	240	..
a Broadwell New	30	85	..	..	49	4	..	35	..
Coventry Perseverance	19640	241516	2002	22246	55814	58712	87525	83941	619
b Eathorpe and Marton	185	841	..	450	506	..	..	1198	..
Harbury	380	2770	406	77	1839	770	560	287	..
Lockhurst Lane	2152	27925	1688	1896	8806	18004	7995	3627	..
Long Itchington	197	1441	..	..	1237	121	..	433	330
Napton	174	783	487	..	250	692	..	181	184
Nuneaton	6455	45078	15552	4619	17005	31534	11991	10575	848
Pailton	36	233	..	1614	486	244	..	1155	161
b Paradise (Foleshill)	73	187	480	29	296	149	..	227	..
Rugby	6729	76098	7061	4704	26626	35674	13809	20288	516
a Southam	268	1095	332	170	654	840	..	250	76
Stoneleigh	126	305	..	..	262	45	..	156	..
Total	37352	405438	29775	36393	117021	150768	123458	124240	3002
Productive Societies:—									
Coventry Andrews Watch Manufacturing	16	336	6	..	254	7	..	12	37
Coventry Builders	12	134	675	..	100	39	491	18	35
Coventry Licensed Trade Supply	148	1566	943	600	250	2208	..	1254	77
Coventry Watch Manufacturing	58	1259	190	8	758	400	..	254	158
Total	37586	408733	81589	37001	118388	153422	123949	125778	3309
No. 5—BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT									
Alcester	3554	26871	3680	1774	17206	16002	600	3270	1186
Bidford	651	7762	19	690	1799	2261	..	4977	680
Birmingham Industrial ..	29268	204222	10731	12563	71887	119810	19412	61891	445
b Church Lench	62	210	..	100	114	44	..	229	..
a Cleve Hill	175	619	43	15	482	97	..	164	292
Dudley	6816	9589	5507	1722	8079	9393	..	2907	1145

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
33	..	88	..	5440	22190	1843	190	0 6	587	74	36	0 12 0
34	..	94	..	4984	20021	1036	160	0 3½	218	35	22	2 1 6
35	..	160	..	9199	30265	974	254	0 3	192	48	23	4 10 0
36	..	248	..	14748	52072	3140	630	0 4½	680	49	166	8 0 0
37	..	30	..	2055	4463	174	36	..	..	5	..	0 12 0
38	..	118	..	6693	17529	831	428	0 2	114	35	52	2 8 0
39	..	66	..	3526	14868	355	94	0 3	70	7	2	1 10 0
40	..	6	..	301	1729	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
41	..	8	..	511	10550	207	46	..	16	4	4	0 12 0
42	..	83	..	4855	24238	1363	155	0 5	289	9	21	1 11 6
43	..	54	..	2750	19560	1245	410	0 2½	103	19	38	1 15 0
	877	1241	56661	72958	1325769	151505	23288	..	4242	1182	1285	224 4 7
1	13	6	798	431	22362	2814	293	2 3	..	35	29	3 18 5
2	..	..	133	..	2817	235	12	..	..	..	..	0 15 0
3	1	..	..	..	499	..	..	1 6	..	..	..	..
4	369	75	26946	6350	438940	65696	9111	2 6	..	1334	140	95 8 9
5	..	..	190	..	3893	493	19	..	..	..	..	1 19 6
6	5	4	325	148	9078	778	132	1 5½	..	..	7	11 5 3
7	49	9	2654	540	53852	8016	1110	2 3	..	172	16	..
8	3	3	213	62	5490	464	34	1 9	..	..	..	0 17 6
9	2	2	77	62	2133	125	32	1 0	..	..	..	..
10	112	35	7192	2926	154968	19864	2038	2 1½	..	257	146	30 19 4
11	3	..	145	..	2172	80	11	2 0	..	..	..	..
12	..	..	124	..	3179	420	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	173	50	11021	3537	194016	22065	3100	2 0	..	281	95	32 14 0
14	5	3	337	85	6110	587	46	2 0	..	..	6	..
15	3	..	215	..	4695	327	11	1 6	..	..	..	..
	738	187	50370	14141	904204	121964	15949	..	..	2079	439	177 12 9
16	..	3	..	172	410	13	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
17	..	1	..	119	252	13	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
18	..	9	..	705	2664	524	76	..	15	..	18	1 10 0
19	..	12	..	462	883	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 12 6
	738	212	50370	15599	908413	122514	16025	..	15	2079	457	180 5 3
1	111	12	5644	891	96483	9589	1001	1 10	..	..	135	15 12 6
2	13	3	595	178	14730	1577	..	2 2	..	..	21	3 2 6
3	513	118	32626	6088	566567	70901	8460	2 0	1070	771	762	121 7 1
4	..	..	110	..	1532	101	10	..	..	..	..	..
5	6	2	916	100	4698	40	14	..	..	..	..	..
6	67	9	3252	771	59259	6500	250	2 0	..	45	34	15 0 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT—<i>Con.</i>		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fenny Compton	256	1762	5	88	813	471	..	726	257 7
δHalesowen and Hasbury ..	1472	14167	8561	420	7010	12881	..	5223	.. 8
Highley	180	1910	634	248	915	1292	325	339	85 9
Kidderminster	2946	45245	1422	3567	11324	12858	5523	26085	295 10
Malvern	357	1700	670	..	377	1536	..	470	82 11
Soho (Smethwick)	6300	32610	8521	3227	21690	23828	..	5895	870 12
δStratford-on-Avon	718	2208	753	350	1279	2900	..	804	.. 13
Ten Acres and Stirchley (Birmingham)	8142	86294	6341	10450	21193	54130	4931	38815	666 14
Warwick	426	1309	816	45	633	1183	..	588	310 15
Worcester	4384	35135	2985	2845	11051	15734	2462	16458	688 16
	65707	471613	50688	38104	175852	273620	33253	168336	6931
Productive Societies:—									
αAlcester Needle Makers ..	153	1872	1361	..	1332	562	..	49	381 17
Birmingham Printers ..	204	8348	1605	500	391	6941	686	766	2488 18
Midland Woodworkers....	43	223	46	..	108	63	..	29	21 19
Total	66107	482056	53700	38604	177683	281386	33939	169200	9821
No. 6—STAFFORD DISTRICT—									
Bourton (Much Wenlock) ..	42	134	..	388	160	22	..	333	17 1
Bridgnorth	320	1335	1002	208	567	1428	518	254	100 2
Burton-on-Trent	9167	95144	6015	6757	25259	41664	4711	51970	.. 3
Cannock	3200	23910	3432	1533	7441	8579	1239	13246	1584 4
Cheadle	321	772	111	41	567	93	..	420	14 5
Ellesmere	210	843	83	98	177	612	..	235	74 6
Hollington	107	887	43	129	116	118	357	584	15 7
Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale	996	8779	..	592	4281	3432	600	2633	758 8
αMayfield	222	1280	41	275	843	164	..	1107	.. 9
Oakengates	2201	18061	436	1870	6363	5182	..	11331	230 10
Prees	337	1452	1142	113	850	1383	495	476	320 11
Rugeley	1318	10097	694	1359	4445	3219	756	5345	543 12
Shrewsbury	3407	18615	3686	1830	7486	9522	4420	6052	449 13
Stafford	2589	19467	685	2214	6309	13619	..	4452	580 14
Stone	920	9825	430	767	3641	2837	1674	4184	828 15
Tamworth	5030	58636	3486	3680	15583	22920	3033	33853	615 16
Tibberton	41	61	..	..	217	5	..	30	.. 17
Tipton	825	5849	..	578	2293	2163	..	2085	461 18
Walsall	10124	67015	7591	3029	18147	38351	5427	26492	183 19
Wednesbury (New)	1120	7076	2138	293	4639	3488	758	1133	785 20
Wheaton Aston	62	486	112	..	265	150	200	..	.. 21
δWhitchurch	500	3111	1191	..	1187	2007	..	2350	.. 22
Wolverhampton	3879	33313	863	925	10661	11417	3693	13459	1166 23
	46938	386148	33181	27279	121397	172373	27881	182024	8722
Productive Society:—									
Walsall Locks & Cart Gear	198	7515	3573	4529	8253	5637	..	25	4810 24
Total	47136	393663	86754	31808	129650	178010	27881	182049	13532

1914, MIDLAND SECTION

609

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.				Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital		Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.		
7	3	2	188	65	5449	430	67	1 6	..	..	3	1 6 4
8	..	..	1897	..	35126	4099	469	..	..	..	..	..
9	4	2	236	110	5497	620	90	2 1	..	..	..	0 15 7
10	52	19	3162	1079	74769	10181	1736	2 0	..	91	104	14 5 0	
11	5	1	334	82	3644	48	..	1 0	..	..	1	1 15 0
12	110	18	8035	1331	128853	14961	1360	2 0	340	204	82	27 12 1	
13	..	..	764	..	10656	861	99	..	..	..	..	..
14	165	22	9848	1921	194889	26711	3582	2 0	..	599	237	38 9 9	
15	6	3	344	146	6383	404	57	1 2	..	2	..	2 3 6	
16	85	17	4448	1296	83597	10511	1256	2 0	244	211	150	20 1 11	
		1140	228	71799	14058	1286132	157534	18451	..	1654	1923	1529	261 11 3
17	..	20	..	746	2920	44	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0
18	..	64	..	4203	9888	832	475	0 4 1/2	143	10	48	1 5 0	
19	..	4	..	480	902	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
		1140	316	71799	19487	1299842	158410	18926	..	1797	1933	1577	264 11 3
1	1	..	72	..	832	5	5	1 0	..	..	..	0 4 5
2	6	2	354	133	6368	583	62	1 9	..	..	1	1 16 0
3	225	69	12970	4454	259113	33332	4263	2 1 1/2	350	352	144	45 0 5	
4	53	22	3429	1257	81980	9417	1067	2 0	..	196	38	14 6 6	
5	5	1	240	78	5680	421	32	1 3	..	..	1	1 10 6
6	3	..	180	..	2678	253	36	1 10	..	..	3	1 1 0
7	1	..	81	..	1516	219	43	2 6	..	5	..	0 11 3	
8	25	3	1341	199	20673	1874	403	1 6	..	15	22	5 3 10	
9	5	..	334	..	7340	1052	56	2 7 1/2	12	24	2	1 3 2	
10	53	14	2614	912	58003	7504	774	2 0	..	130	90	10 10 6	
11	6	2	293	184	5272	447	60	1 0	..	..	4	1 15 0
12	25	6	1403	429	32083	4195	441	2 0	..	40	50	6 6 0	
13	62	17	3275	1084	58472	8343	750	2 2	77	141	129	14 11 6	
14	40	7	2779	507	45247	5185	739	2 0	..	43	67	12 5 0	
15	17	5	967	288	20743	2769	435	2 0	..	23	21	..	
16	110	41	6705	2955	135003	19477	2485	2 4	170	210	97	23 14 9	
17	1	..	54	..	963	27	3	2 6	..	..	..	0 4 7
18	15	3	633	155	16422	1960	269	2 0	..	..	7	3 12 11
19	154	33	9106	2259	169550	21747	2844	2 0	388	190	86	48 9 4	
20	17	5	832	352	16300	1538	295	1 3 1/2	37	58	25	5 5 6	
21	1	..	69	..	1502	162	11	3 0	1	..	..	..
22	..	..	605	..	11429	396	85	..	..	..	..	2 12 1
23	81	18	4757	2000	69512	10057	1443	1 9 3/4	82	150	21	19 2 11	
		906	248	53153	17246	1026681	130963	16601	..	1117	1577	808	219 7 2
24	..	250	..	10569	21115	772	415	178	19	20	1 10 0
		906	498	53153	27815	1047796	131735	17016	..	1295	1596	828	220 17 2

9 Months.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 7—DERBY DISTRICT—									
Bolsover	1446	13188	2874	117	6916	8900	..	3154	961
bBrassington	50	123	..	141	175	..	..	211	..
aClay Cross	825	5408	3565	..	2580	3212	1417	867	1263
Codnor Park and Ironville	889	18887	1882	442	4962	1787	5800	9646	740
Derby	29405	852072	6778	17824	76602	151538	117607	70265	6647
Ilkeston	4500	45675	2845	2290	16287	25566	6014	3286	510
Langley Mill and Aldercar	5160	79475	11554	2207	22423	30070	31208	17643	1798
Lea and Holloway	408	2430	1620	13	884	573	1677	789	408
Long Eaton	8813	139434	17097	5952	43569	75012	42474	16331	..
Milford (Hopping Hill)	330	1875	..	..	1047	215	..	690	161
bPinxton	690	20227	..	1378	3784	3574	..	15761	..
Ripley	10592	230878	5585	11255	54065	68765	42761	96808	218
Tibshelf	1291	14443	915	1861	4361	5277	1714	3251	793
Wirksworth	489	2142	25	494	1282	526	252	1334	180
	64888	925707	54740	43474	238937	375015	250424	250036	13679
Productive Societies:—									
Derby Printers	70	1092	1867	209	140	2929	..	462	271
b „ Umbrella Makers ..	37	270	111	9	297	20	..	207	..
Long Eaton Printers	27	526	..	68	105	156	..	222	271
Total	65022	927595	56718	43755	239479	378120	250424	250927	14221
No. 8—NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT									
Annesley Colliery	798	6703	..	901	2781	100	..	6444	252
Annesley Woodhouse	393	8047	618	449	2644	980	1484	5105	15
Bulwell	2019	25967	5035	903	10160	7260	7092	10390	50
Calverton	221	2063	71	125	907	731	..	774	41
Cinder Hill	2017	20944	3644	2473	9154	9721	2008	8641	335
Hucknall Torkard	3694	106859	16364	3727	12789	12609	35965	71931	..
Keyworth	245	1188	214	21	525	707	..	224	219
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	2383	36936	2535	1542	14660	15165	6495	8340	953
Langwith	595	6641	447	900	3554	1228	..	3825	750
Lowdham	395	3711	70	351	1065	1202	370	1798	355
Mansfield and Sutton	10538	159078	5374	10985	48828	38091	63170	38250	1852
Netherfield	2346	16834	3425	482	8341	11899	2428	1343	868
Nottingham	14233	161571	4874	9744	44211	78229	7055	61962	3291
Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	1273	14794	3867	1420	4910	7575	1748	7094	588
bPleasley Works	44	44	..	79	235	9	..	287	..
Radcliffe-on-Trent	296	2629	2462	..	1246	3498	..	156	453
Ruddington	585	10777	1555	681	2102	4516	6033	792	159
Selston	699	13598	3255	363	5229	5051	2274	5304	277
Southwell	490	4125	334	380	2351	1881	..	704	297
Stanton Hill	1523	16035	5510	1325	6443	6590	7660	3542	1197
Stapleford and Sandiacre ..	2445	37593	2814	1663	12105	14330	10414	8780	304
Warsop Vale	226	3449	..	155	1247	797	1534	468	..
aWoodborough	82	485	367	46	277	703	..	158	..
	47540	660071	62835	38715	195764	222872	155733	246312	12256
Productive Societies:—									
Odnor Park and Selston Baking	10	800	..	28	155	640	..	60	..
Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manu- facturers	253	5133	5622	611	6781	3786	..	1912	4407
Nottingham Printers	109	741	313	271	120	385	..	739	135
Total	47912	666745	68770	39625	202820	227683	155733	249023	16798

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£.	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	30	4	1814	196	41428	6159	620	2 6	..	..	57	6 5 3
2	..	..	61	..	799	4	4	..	..	..	..	..
3	12	2	847	53	11157	400	252	0 6	..	..	..	3 8 9
4	22	3	1387	209	29252	1786	873	1 10½	..	16	40	4 10 6	
5	818	370	45298	29922	800786	113460	12757	2 6	..	1007	1478	147 0 0	
6	114	24	6664	2092	135387	13758	1778	2 0	7	271	171	22 12 10	
7	152	89	8593	6249	157847	20360	3453	2 1	371	389	4 9	25 1 9	
8	3	..	202	..	4624	444	104	1 6	..	..	3	2 1 10
9	300	69	13864	5236	260849	37212	6110	2 1½	..	389	328	44 1 5	
10	7	..	465	..	8744	571	87	..	..	..	..	1 18 6
11	..	..	821	..	23212	4651	877	..	..	..	..	3 18 1
12	222	67	13118	3644	309689	47536	10299	2 6	..	481	140	52 7 2	
13	38	10	2262	531	50113	9572	638	2 6	..	118	94	6 10 0	
14	7	1	402	80	10596	1602	86	2 4	..	..	25	2 5 9
1725			639	95798	48212	1844183	257515	37938	..	378	2671	2385	322 1 10
15	..	13	..	748	2179	831	52	34	9	11	0 15 0
16	243	927	12	0 7 6
17	..	7	..	561	1116	126	40	0 10	..	35	6	1	0 5 0
1725			659	95798	49764	1846705	257984	38030	..	447	2686	2397	323 9 4
1	12	1	984	82	31340	6244	322	3 8½	..	..	27	4 1 10
2	8	1	590	60	13907	1584	336	2 4	18	44	9	1 17 5	
3	49	11	3120	681	64042	8656	1040	2 4	..	40	52	10 8 4	
4	2	..	166	..	4951	710	97	..	..	..	..	..
5	44	18	3206	1212	61928	6713	828	2 6	..	148	66	9 18 0	
6	72	45	4901	3222	98633	10381	3770	2 4½	..	201	93	18 13 4	
7	3	2	837	94	4560	343	39	1 0	..	..	3	1 5 0
8	64	13	4220	893	86871	11862	1746	2 2½	111	126	49	16 1 6	
9	17	..	1164	..	24000	4075	285	3 0	..	..	18	3 0 5
10	7	1	397	92	7344	639	152	1 7	..	..	..	1 19 0
11	242	38	13476	2268	303440	39365	6963	2 1½	..	270	202	51 11 8	
12	46	13	2744	978	58090	2935	651	1 9	..	..	75	10 9 6
13	286	104	21743	8567	288127	38699	7612	1 11½	866	178	320	71 13 0	
14	32	..	2021	..	41538	5564	648	2 4	..	49	6	6 2 0	
15	..	..	59	..	1806	243	3	..	..	..	..	..
16	5	2	361	152	5708	..	31	0 1½	..	..	..	..
17	13	5	744	367	16265	2323	504	1 10	..	5	7	2 19 7	
18	20	4	1253	262	21860	2151	646	2 0	..	22	6	3 13 2	
19	14	4	763	193	10931	890	190	1 8	..	24	16	2 11 6	
20	44	5	2205	99	49778	4291	725	2 4	..	72	50	7 4 10	
21	63	13	3971	1375	78714	9250	1707	1 11½	..	94	66	12 12 0	
22	6	..	482	..	9810	1367	162	2 7	12	22	8	1 4 1	
23	2	..	93	..	1516	275	18	1 9	..	..	..	..
1051			280	69000	20597	1285099	160560	28466	..	1007	1295	1073	237 5 9
24	..	3	..	278	2030	..	40	0 5 0
25	..	85	..	4131	25732	1035	224	0 1½	176	29	50	1 5 0	
26	..	10	..	738	1401	51	18	0 2	7	3	7	0 15 0	
1051			378	69000	25744	1314262	161646	28748	..	1190	1327	1190	239 10 9

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 9—LINCOLN DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Boston.....	2214	11606	6191	1545	6246	10654	1262	2247	1267
Gainsborough	4500	59624	4513	3893	23151	21801	17489	12787	685
Grantham	2529	22374	7788	1127	8609	17292	3913	2535	529
Great Grimsby	7295	45574	35976	2670	18716	22267	12243	7879	5740
Huntingdon	623	5517	1870	602	2001	2135		4200	163
Lincoln	14975	243192	118897	18624	70580	141372	123723	68981	3256
Newark	2129	12685	1189	1726	3968	7517	1864	5091	224
Peterborough	16325	161277	9306	9716	48677	76524	26326	50042	1987
Retford	1465	15160	1298	876	3815	4549	1858	6700	728
St. Ives (Hunts.)	785	3290	1502	402	2072	2387	..	1152	97
Saxby	100	97	361	224	355	..	..	431	229
Scunthorpe	3750	22009	7575	2262	622	12414	7913	6584	336
Skegness	287	954	205	138	470	1180	..	210	70
Spalding	1011	4672	4145	..	2638	5878	..	942	308
aWalsgate	96	161	10	70	131	26	..	146	32
bWisbech Phoenix	450	1100	758	324	841	742	..	1039	..
	58534	609292	201584	44139	192892	326738	224591	170916	15651
Productive Society :— Lincoln Land and Building	631	5362	63718	3466	678	681	66044	5404	300
Total	59165	614654	265302	47605	193570	327419	290635	176320	15951

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	49	15	2567	960	40985	3594	533	1 6	50	..	38 11 3 4
2	142	64	6275	3433	116669	13920	2766	1 11½	..	144	190 23 0 0
3	60	19	2978	802	55533	5337	871	1 8½	..	18	31 13 0 0
4	149	39	9007	2338	137533	13000	1984	1 8½	..	105	209 35 18 4
5	8	3	614	82	11325	1225	256	2 4	..	..	40 3 4 7
6	438	201	26599	17311	413676	47473	9899	1 8½	..	456	84 75 9 5
7	33	9	2042	618	34881	4225	521	2 0	..	20	66 10 10 0
8	468	134	19513	7254	331209	40211	7585	1 11	..	390	327 79 1 8
9	29	6	1432	437	35496	3840	649	1 9	..	39	38 8 8 0
10	13	2	759	146	11925	1158	157	1 8	14	..	8 3 19 2
11	3	..	111	..	2766	296	4	3 0	2	..	2 0 9 6
12	86	15	3661	753	71896	8415	691	2 1	..	30	26 17 14 2
13	6	1	315	105	5461	371	19	1 6	..	..	3 1 9 2
14	20	4	688	23	89449	575	155	0 10	..	9	20 5 6 0
15	3	..	89	..	1626	102	..	1 3	..	..	.. ..
16	..	..	513	..	11999	650	44	..	..	..	2 4 9
	1507	512	77163	34262	1291829	144392	26134	..	66	1211	1086 290 18 1
17	..	17	..	1827	4683	395	345	..	..	..	3 5 4
	1507	529	77163	36089	1296512	144787	26479	..	66	1211	1086 294 3 5

s 9 Months only.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTHAMPTON AND EARLS BARTON ..	20	11441	96362	32607	9969	34753	53902	24596	37166	1283
„ 2—WELLINGBORO' AND KETTERING	30	29191	495715	178035	58860	222066	189916	227971	177629	70000
„ 3—LEICESTER	43	46090	574468	150937	34253	183903	276611	160262	195896	24043
„ 4—COVENTRY	19	37586	408733	31589	37001	118383	153422	123949	125778	3309
„ 5—BIRMINGHAM	19	66107	482056	53700	38604	177683	281386	33939	169200	9821
„ 6—STAFFORD	24	47136	393663	36754	31808	129650	178010	27881	182049	13532
„ 7—DERBY	17	65022	927595	56718	43755	239479	378120	250424	250927	14221
„ 8—NOTTINGHAM	26	47212	666745	68770	39625	202820	227683	155733	249023	16798
„ 9—LINCOLN	17	59165	614654	265302	47605	193570	327419	290635	176320	15951
Totals, 1914	215	409650	4659991	874412	341480	1502307	2066469	1295390	1563928	168958
Totals, 1913	216	379908	4317094	808565	288714	1307762	2134690	1164654	1447396	142447
Increase .....	..	29742	342897	65847	52766	194545	..	180736	116532	26511
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	68221	..	..	..

NORTHERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
RIDING OF YORKSHIRE, for 1914, arranged

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
No 1.—NORTH NORTH- BERLAND DISTRICT—										
Amble	1838	25343	..	835	6712	7804	801	12516	1032	1
Ashington Equitable	871	7474	4350	1705	5390	6896	..	1468	340	2
" Industrial	4681	95816	457	5605	18707	29041	23434	33246	1489	3
Rebside	538	6308	160	301	2290	670	191	3819	339	4
Bedlington	2350	30711	27683	1204	13309	23535	7424	9641	6954	5
Blyth—Clive Industrial	441	4516	..	..	1900	2466	..	836	609	6
" Cowpen Quay C.	1816	34829	..	1355	9011	11298	..	16956	1006	7
Broomhill	960	16461	1405	1135	5157	4839	312	10023	4149	8
Cambols	569	14513	485	..	2146	3218	3783	5408	869	9
Choppington	452	3369	867	118	1447	1432	..	809	1034	10
Felton	102	581	320	7	430	496	..	318	26	11
Guide Post	691	10081	330	769	2724	3017	1018	4416	657	12
Hedgeley	641	4900	148	77	3189	1574	238	1092	477	13
Howick	456	4608	..	610	1045	280	..	5115	168	14
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	1803	43474	6785	1032	6107	16865	20257	9189	1996	15
New Delaval	929	16219	40	381	1959	3381	7428	2701	1922	16
Otterburn	120	761	38	26	327	335	..	169	117	17
Pegswood	620	8905	2196	589	1649	3543	924	6203	734	18
Radcliffe	410	6077	..	305	1651	403	..	4737	260	19
Sea Houses & N. S'land.	251	2638	13	85	1188	968	..	757	105	20
Togston Ter. & Bro'mh'l.	150	2045	..	140	1165	171	..	777	80	21
Tweedside	3065	34491	88	3302	10723	7125	669	19140	4203	22
Widdrington	402	2479	4661	623	951	48	..	7624	315	23
Total										
	24156	376599	50026	20204	99183	129205	66479	150960	24881	
No. 2.—SOUTH NORTH- BERLAND DISTRICT—										
Backworth	910	21452	797	2000	3570	6070	7172	5932	p1762	1
Belsay	149	973	..	11	445	152	..	403	..	2
Coxlodge and Fawdon ..	520	6755	600	570	2509	3341	378	2349	546	3
Cramlington	4323	84097	22606	4913	15431	24418	11621	61690	4862	4
Newcastle-upon-Tyne ...	27762	449856	28765	8503	71214	160834	110007	208789	p2374	5
North Shields	3152	7059	36068	134	6524	30019	1717	4573	2232	6
St. Anthony's	783	5590	..	165	2499	784	..	3408	..	7
Seaton Delaval	2011	58687	2004	1372	14686	13888	9734	21370	4983	8
Seghill	284	4875	153	135	1062	925	..	3585	255	9
Shiremoor	1020	19062	850	653	3187	4269	3549	9953	1219	10

d Hire Purchase.

p Hire Purchase and Productive Department.

SECTION.

NORTHUMBERLAND, CUMBERLAND, DURHAM, WESTMORLAND, and the NORTH in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
						Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	42	25	2024	1235	71546	14134	530	2 11½	..	15	19	9 7 6
2	36	22	1764	1134	39302	5322	384	2 7½	..	..	55	4 8 0
3	160	81	10038	4762	218501	29622	4417	2 2½	..	225	272	21 18 8
4	15	5	1077	360	25947	3703	277	2 6	..	..	43	2 10 0
5	89	71	6423	3960	121719	14135	1492	2 1½	..	..	112	13 17 0
6	13	..	870	..	13924	1512	183	1 10	..	..	3	....
7	67	25	3797	1343	65981	10278	1663	2 7½	..	..	63	9 1 8
8	33	11	1916	829	42086	6904	629	3 0	..	..	28	5 0 0
9	17	13	2088	790	30026	4169	663	2 7½	..	..	31	2 18 0
10	14	4	919	391	17420	1069	85	2 0½	..	..	3	2 11 4
11	4	..	184	..	2213	155	27	1 4½	..	..	..	0 10 8
12	23	2	1397	105	31692	4066	467	2 7½	..	6	5	3 10 6
13	15	..	1040	..	18335	1683	208	2 1½	..	3	9	3 7 8
14	6	..	436	..	14839	2690	205	3 0	107	8	28	2 3 5
15	64	25	4295	2228	97009	13676	1996	2 8½	..	10	60	9 0 2
16	28	13	1851	997	48201	6541	828	2 5½	..	10	104	4 12 4
17	3	..	188	..	3476	228	17	2 0	..	..	1	0 11 8
18	17	9	771	295	818591	2424	224	2 6	..	6	6	3 2 6
19	15	..	1005	..	19936	..	236	3 4½	..	..	15	2 3 4
20	5	..	290	..	7522	1095	98	2 8½	..	..	5	1 4 6
21	3	..	286	..	5322	865	83	3 1	..	..	4	0 16 2
22	60	31	3719	2025	90921	14250	1394	2 10½	..	..	175	14 17 0
23	10	..	718	..	22281	5534	121	4 1½	..	..	5	2 0 0
739			47996	20454	1026790	144055	16237	..	107	283	1046	119 18 1
1	34	10	2537	619	54919	9374	1001	3 2	..	10	90	4 14 2
2	3	..	147	..	3433	189	39	0 11	..	..	..	0 15 0
3	15	..	1185	..	24492	3647	330	2 8½	..	..	29	2 13 0
4	141	60	11556	5246	215031	34631	4222	2 9½	..	70	180	22 5 9
5	890	193	48080	12447	841466	136782	21460	2 6	..	58	780	132 10 6
6	87	12	4359	1034	66565	6397	201	2 0	..	50	..	13 5 8
7	20	..	1345	..	26542	4317	247	2 11½	..	..	25	3 17 0
8	75	60	5498	2214	107268	18069	2951	3 0	..	..	60	10 4 11
9	8	..	602	..	13551	2827	223	3 8	..	..	24	1 10 6
10	33	5	2178	447	56471	10782	962	3 5	..	5	58	5 6 3

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
No. 2—SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DIST.—<i>Con.</i>										
Walker-on-Tyne	2038	20808	2081	1314	5260	5783	8816	8035		11
Wallsend	5941	112310	8482	6318	17090	23982	49983	45577	1004	12
Willington Q. & Howden	1622	19139	5965	807	5223	12593	4171	4435	1590	13
	50515	810663	108371	26895	148700	296058	207198	380099	20827	
Special Society:— Pioneer Fishing (N. S'lds)	62	1628	624	110	2863	..	..	90	..	14
	50577	812291	108995	27005	151563	296058	207198	380189	20827	
Productive Societies:—										
Co-operative Laundries— Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	53	15411	22200	1854	512	22682	..	16486	1441	15
Newcastle-on-T. Household Furnishing	120	6313	25445	1638	4244	29940	..	137	4783	16
Total	50750	834015	156640	30497	156319	348680	207198	396812	27051	
No. 3—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND DIST.—										
Aspatria	1920	21025	..	1198	6825	5220	3071	11540	458	1
Broughton Moor	117	587	675	46	381	750	..	377	97	2
Carlisle	9140	126780	884	10405	33461	67162	2909	39185	11236	3
Cleator Moor	6087	107290	316	6944	21450	26121	..	66939	10633	4
Dalston	404	5544	..	..	1739	1115	438	2373	322	5
Egremont	1549	34002	..	773	7185	8439	4265	14008	3089	6
Houghton	79	763	525	61	236	912	118	35	130	7
Keswick	764	8257	3	510	2030	1898	1585	2286	570	8
Lazonby	490	5600	..	420	1573	1026	..	3405	780	9
Longtown	430	2781	1790	76	862	473	1906	1678	68	10
Maryport	4621	37643	16899	2420	14101	9549	13000	27425	3110	11
Naworth Collieries	398	2620	920	..	1187	1745	1027	595	484	12
Penrith	1458	13663	462	840	4092	5897	193	5391	2260	13
Tebay	228	1988	..	225	1030	743	118	433	101	14
Upperby	95	307	..	104	148	2	..	369	49	15
Warwick Bridge	102	1169	..	271	525	390	..	697	387	16
Wigton	340	2352	3	228	520	478	..	2090	..	17
Workington Beehive ...	2514	22857	1196	3371	9304	10197	1840	11427	2996	18
„ Industrial	2248	30613	..	3099	8079	14263	4495	11136	2785	19
Total	32984	425641	23673	30901	114728	156386	35570	201389	39555	
No. 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH N'THUMBERLAND DISTRICT—										
Allendale	428	4429	..	98	990	1289	505	2150	392	1
Alston	357	490	297	..	390	594	..	555	180	2
Annfield Plain	7359	193971	4486	10383	25131	32292	49869	94349	7612	3
Blaydon	9987	247731	9713	4022	31695	58044	119665	60508	6004	4
Burnopfield	1756	53670	93	1891	7719	13554	21755	15769	1009	5
Coanwood	232	1666	130	..	722	469	..	491	326	6
Consett	2638	67633	1941	677	9511	13502	21068	26552	3425	7
Esh	774	16849	..	704	3504	4474	1868	8783	2299	8
Fourstones & Newbrough	376	3136	..	280	1060	51	52	3095	205	9
Greenhead	293	2682	..	183	1509	603	..	903	206	10
Haltwhistle	987	15754	..	607	2938	3212	753	10159	1726	11

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
11	57	14	3259	892	68371	10993	770	2 11½	..	..	92	10 4 4
12	166	41	9101	2913	172821	30634	4800	3 0	..	230	106	29 10 0
13	51	9	2702	614	51991	8051	878	2 8	..	50	74	8 4 2
14	1580	404	92549	26456	1702921	276693.	38084	..	..	473	1527	245 1 3
	..	17	..	1721	5831	..	152	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
	1580	421	92549	28177	1708752	276693	38236	..	..	473	1527	245 11 3
15	..	259	..	7684	24032	7797	741	1 0	..	..	..	0 15 0
16	..	89	..	8027	18277	138	..	..	..	..	..	1 0 0
	1580	769	92549	43888	1751661	284628	38977	..	..	473	1527	247 6 3
1	39	14	2622	1127	61170	7803	8921	2 2	..	..	44	9 13 4
2	2	..	152	..	3318	576	26	3 0	..	..	4	.. .. .
3	285	91	15784	4774	287591	42091	4980	2 6	..	105	276	44 17 0
4	136	40	10857	2944	207826	38902	4430	3 1	..	51	358	31 17 0
5	6	..	342	..	8628	901	271	2 4½	..	..	5	2 1 8
6	36	18	2566	984	54550	7999	1198	2 7½	..	36	101	7 14 0
7	2	..	152	..	2832	240	35	2 4	17	..	1	0 8 4
8	13	3	804	167	15845	2029	279	2 6	14	..	32	3 19 2
9	11	..	607	..	17116	1487	272	3 4	..	2	8	2 8 4
10	7	..	344	..	10004	1020	132	1 10	..	..	..	.. .. .
11	98	63	5533	2588	129414	20566	1651	2 8½	..	182	116	24 4 3
12	11	3	612	198	14701	1641	117	2 1	..	2	..	2 0 9
13	26	4	6483	211	34627	3470	525	2 2	..	40	26	7 3 0
14	5	..	302	..	6737	709	87	2 1½	..	..	9	1 3 0
15	2	..	132	..	2876	399	9	3 0	..	..	3	.. .. .
16	4	..	220	..	4400	307	45	2 0	..	..	..	.. .. .
17	6	..	345	..	8595	981	100	2 3	37	..	16	1 15 0
18	53	31	3063	1130	66550	12952	1148	3 2½	..	80	94	10 11 0
19	56	26	3328	1672	67691	12219	1184	3 2½	..	111	72	11 11 0
	798	293	55248	15795	1004471	157192	25410	..	68	609	1165	101 6 10
1	8	..	373	..	10293	843	162	2 10	..	..	28	1 18 0
2	3	..	133	..	2070	45	9	0 7	..	..	..	1 2 6
3	231	44	18962	3880	418496	89690	7636	4 2½	..	532	281	38 0 0
4	228	85	16330	5811	341417	68225	9390	3 4	..	1472	112	50 15 0
5	57	15	4492	1094	88032	14776	2250	3 7½	..	155	127	.. .. .
6	5	..	210	..	5204	920	52	3 5	..	..	4	1 3 3
7	71	18	2940	770	63573	13545	2935	3 5½	..	102	22	15 0 4
8	22	2	1715	90	40365	7310	801	3 4	..	5	15	4 1 3
9	6	..	340	..	9103	1588	130	3 2½	..	..	..	1 18 3
10	9	..	502	..	10101	1123	122	2 11	3	..	14	1 9 8
11	17	10	1284	571	35439	6939	662	3 0	..	20	40	4 13 8

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	£
No. 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH N'THUMBERLAND DISTRICT—Con.									
Haydon Bridge	314	3471	..	45	897	1065	1340	557	260
Hexham and Acomb ...	420	4746	327	155	1399	2958	..	732	490
Leadgate	2355	38177	..	4793	9174	9773	6076	18976	4883
Nenthead	120	544	..	83	405	21	..	203	167
Swalwell	890	10024	3347	343	2821	4039	3023	5951	1193
Tantobie	590	22520	1122	80	3544	5111	9035	7086	595
Throckley	1825	37834	16654	2019	8121	10310	11903	28701	1885
West Stanley	4262	136156	7086	2789	19970	53806	17926	64614	4650
West Wylam & Prudhoe.	3792	81924	3724	4720	11940	14597	25558	41715	4379
Whitfield	119	1275	..	199	582	120	..	1076	p3
	39824	944082	48920	34071	144022	220884	290552	392920	41889
Productive Society :— Derwent Flour Mill	9	18276	20861	..	9701	12769	..	15788	1883
Total	39833	962058	69781	34071	153723	242653	290552	408708	43772
No. 5—EAST DURHAM DIS- TRICT—									
Birtley	4392	79128	28889	4548	25956	50031	18963	13753	11228
Boldon Colliery	3188	49606	1624	1733	11577	13150	6398	24787	2969
Chester-le-Street	5100	150294	4138	7113	25060	32596	24174	79623	9607
Craghead and Holmside..	451	12823	..	936	2626	3545	..	8849	93
Felling	1496	10523	612	485	4039	4096	..	9270	1589
Felling Shore, Hew'th, &c	708	10470	..	581	2380	2365	..	7779	196
Gateshead	12477	172268	3294	9829	43473	49585	52426	63697	178
Haswell	3191	47199	4328	4723	16396	19259	1719	14944	7993
Hebburn Colliery	408	1461	416	358	1102	1033	..	600	334
Jarrow and Hebburn ..	6250	121105	7278	6876	24402	41827	36844	42678	5900
Mararsden	343	5915	680	60	2605	3655	..	531	705
Murton Colliery	1743	33494	1653	3120	7889	2301	5907	25408	711
Pelton Fell	484	8392	95	224	2800	1830	1396	3819	238
Ryhope and Silksworth.	11007	108704	..	9493	42881	44672	..	78108	2080
Seaham Harbour	3351	34651	7556	525	14441	17660	2453	17843	2075
South Hetton Amicable.	288	2682	506	168	2145	1606	..	526	352
South Shields	3939	39465	4097	1575	10081	11060	1620	24466	3484
Sunderland	16695	106810	93219	7941	38158	71132	87085	20955	6695
Tyne Dock	1770	26304	1360	425	5190	10666	3325	9433	1702
West Pelton	1557	45073	355	1223	10259	15467	8978	13890	1990
Windy Nook	1346	25273	1491	1714	5100	9799	7430	8079	1143
Total	80284	1097638	161591	63650	299256	407835	258218	469128	61262
No. 6—SOUTH DURHAM DISTRICT—									
aBearnpark Colliery	201	2158	630	63	1144	662	..	966	680
Bishop Auckland	18637	439817	..	10594	71457	63872	168686	205923	8149
Brandon and Byshotties.	1633	31986	367	2308	5179	11099	6602	13953	2477
Cornforth and Coxhoe ..	2196	47267	4007	966	11148	12693	8984	19661	2851
Crook	4946	147727	..	1045	15322	15948	16157	104771	12988
Durham	2200	59042	882	825	7290	9329	..	43240	2386
Easington Lane	713	9923	1207	291	2794	2438	2512	3361	1376
Framwellgate Moor	273	879	1394	72	958	1670	..	389	387
Hetton Downs	2149	31183	7082	1819	11679	11780	6478	12507	408
Low Moorsley	359	8100	345	331	1916	940	952	5037	258
Newbottle	2382	46531	..	1615	16270	15102	1484	17020	3610
New Brancepeth	1046	15295	5408	11	6929	4425	1700	9723	574
Pittington	1392	24377	336	2017	8313	5168	5179	10252	1426

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
12	7	2	362	113	88408	1073	162	3 2	..	..	2	1 13	5
13	12	..	706	..	10076	1219	189	2 5½	..	..	3	2 2	6
14	53	15	4024	856	88105	21841	1888	4 4	..	..	74	11 14	0
15	3	..	173	..	3163	300	21	2 3	..	..	2	0 11	6
16	26	4	1624	282	38792	6836	526	3 5½	..	40	36	4 7	6
17	19	3	1757	222	34290	7292	1029	3 10	..	23	54	3 1	8
18	61	14	3512	1166	87381	14306	1774	3 4	..	200	72	9 3	8
19	168	69	11077	4706	237296	51616	6609	3 9½	..	200	120	22 3	2
20	104	40	6723	2676	159080	32135	3479	3 7	..	250	150	19 0	3
21	4	1	152	56	5760	578	59	3 11	..	..	3	0 12	5
	1114	322	78391	22293	1697344	342200	39885	..	3	3000	1159	194 12	6
22	..	45	..	4083	144738	1932	913	0 2	..	..	..	2 2	0
	1114	367	78391	26376	1842082	344132	46798	..	3	3000	1159	196 14	6
1	162	81	8462	3604	150923	26627	2423	3 4	11	45	106	22 13	0
2	84	..	5659	..	124013	13983	2328	3 7	..	24	114	14 16	0
3	211	43	13791	2784	247854	50405	6245	3 6	..	140	202	26 9	10
4	16	3	1256	239	35470	9010	600	3 8	..	4	23	2 3	0
5	34	2	1825	47	35306	6137	599	3 1½	..	..	27	..	..
6	19	1	1372	36	32851	6106	498	3 3	..	..	23	3 11	1
7	397	60	22582	5266	434650	66022	7568	2 8½	..	..	505	61 8	0
8	98	35	8385	1377	136615	24437	2179	3 2½	..	..	63	15 10	0
9	6	..	451	..	6821	1439	69	3 4	..	..	3	2 3	4
10	205	59	10581	4261	253773	48666	5854	3 3	..	444	305	32 0	5
11	13	..	837	..	19040	3067	263	3 0	..	..	3	1 15	5
12	63	5	4356	480	92051	18609	1468	3 7	..	4	31	8 10	9
13	18	5	1103	154	27052	5617	362	4 0	..	..	13	2 7	8
14	252	58	18096	5058	478000	102446	5541	4 0	18	30	1533	55 5	10
15	85	25	5543	1467	119933	22906	1727	3 7	..	..	42	18 6	8
16	7	2	498	54	11763	1742	122	2 8	..	..	1	1 9	11
17	107	..	5442	..	124721	21038	1776	3 0	..	..	100	18 3	0
18	347	126	15962	7297	225052	27653	3595	2 0	..	456	121	60 0	0
19	51	1	2751	68	51839	9008	1270	3 0	..	5	55	9 2	4
20	68	11	4587	816	84897	16232	2271	3 6	..	5	78	8 1	1
21	40	2	3083	187	64613	11800	1101	3 4	..	..	73	6 13	5
	2283	519	136622	33195	2757237	492950	47859	..	29	1157	3421	360 10	9
1	7	..	510	..	13344	2371	106	3 6	..	..	20	..	..
2	426	156	29929	11216	653438	138768	20650	3 7½	..	100	450	98 0	8
3	46	20	3913	1535	91236	20059	1546	4 1	..	58	..	7 16	11
4	60	18	4458	1482	88113	15262	1919	3 0½	..	..	32	11 3	8
5	112	48	8787	3645	190229	38525	5568	3 2½	..	10	30	25 4	7
6	50	12	3310	927	63076	10570	2927	2 5½	..	99	93	11 6	4
7	20	7	1412	484	30166	5343	497	3 9	..	..	18	8 13	5
8	5	..	397	..	5598	660	41	2 10	..	..	..	1 8	5
9	71	20	5489	1589	108421	17801	1771	3 0	..	..	101	10 10	5
10	13	1	950	..	19820	3440	348	3 10	..	..	5	1 18	5
11	102	25	6808	2081	144079	33754	2296	3 11½	..	..	43	12 8	11
12	44	14	2661	964	59326	11781	726	3 9½	..	..	43	5 8	2
13	54	10	3722	746	72153	14671	1042	4 0	..	..	49	6 18	8

s Ten Months.

v Nine Months.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
No. 6—SOUTH DURHAM DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Sherburn Hill	3387	61492	..	3284	15541	15758	2079	26788	4635	14
Stanhope-in-Weardale ..	1663	25809	1006	1097	7731	7824	3452	14070	1067	15
Station Town	1184	17830	3298	612	5578	6833	2777	7034	528	16
Tow Law	1479	35146	1793	1000	7365	3354	6049	22141	2012	17
Tndhoe Colliery	2023	19130	323	1643	6723	4308	..	12835	135	18
West Cornforth	1610	20754	791	606	5344	8769	..	10963	1277	19
Willington	2207	55000	4489	1104	7773	5997	11350	37046	2529	20
Total	51681	1102446	33283	31303	216457	208968	244501	577689	40753	
No. 7.—SOUTH DURHAM & NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE DIST.—										
Barnard Castle	1103	8023	..	688	2540	3624	100	2616	999	1
Castle Howard	275	1658	..	190	1149	49	..	611	403	2
Darlington	11926	79900	735	4837	22285	35627	10720	27253	..	3
East Cleveland	3802	45868	3893	3256	10809	13564	9506	24452	2279	4
Grosmont	332	2024	4	300	692	450	265	1557	..	5
Guisborough	1538	24107	1016	384	5095	4137	6713	10469	1349	6
Hartlepool	9504	95174	41177	13307	33113	94832	26971	9967	4713	7
Kirkby Stephen	389	3182	..	148	1263	1236	..	806	550	8
Malton and Norton	730	2835	1432	365	1620	2710	..	789	113	9
Marske-by-the-Sea	358	3201	612	398	1419	685	158	1704	283	10
Middlesbrough	20135	172932	7450	19121	54535	89199	22060	55024	2450	11
Middleton-in-Teesdale ..	1319	22584	300	1512	6868	3098	2375	12999	1009	12
Northallerton	806	4398	66	358	2154	700	..	2340	256	13
Pickering	483	2255	91	230	939	1210	..	942	59	14
Skelton	1692	12987	707	658	5321	2612	1853	5360	1029	15
Stockton-on-Tees	15029	136667	12825	11895	39000	45862	41413	62170	..	16
Thirsk	430	1900	327	176	1160	50	137	1053	265	17
Whitby	1274	6131	853	364	2294	2133	490	2730	249	18
	71725	625826	71488	58187	192265	301778	122761	223751	16006	
Productive Societies :—										
Brandsby Agricul. Trad'g	236	3337	1451	205	2223	1522	..	472	3076	19
Northallerton Corn Mill.	500	1716	816	..	501	3159	..	32	2295	20
Total	72461	630879	73755	58392	194989	306459	122761	224255	21377	

f Clubs.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.						Chari- table Pur poses.	Co-operative Union.			
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.		
14	121	29	7120	2661	187417	35300	2388	3 7	..	..	198	16 12 8
15	32	..	2221	..	42263	6171	926	2 6	..	..	35	8 13 1
16	38	3	2524	257	44386	7366	820	2 11½	..	3	8	6 2 11		
17	37	15	2517	1038	52249	8419	1312	3 3	..	..	34	8 2 6
18	58	4	3842	193	83992	14334	922	3 4½	..	..	32	10 7 4
19	47	4	2980	324	65894	11707	729	3 1	..	..	11	8 0 11
20	71	16	4350	1342	90209	10280	2200	3 2	..	39	44	11 8 0		
			1414	402	97900	30484	2105409	402182	48734	309	1246	260 6 0
1	17	..	965	..	19635	2368	372	2 4	..	..	..	5 15 3
2	7	..	349	..	7376	361	61	1 11	..	6	3	1 7 6		
3	206	34	12878	2092	226700	32949	3045	2 5½	298	260	192	58 7 1		
4	94	34	6333	2150	141118	22676	1444	2 11	..	40	244	17 19 4		
5	5	..	278	..	7524	923	108	2 8	..	..	7	1 12 2
6	36	5	2698	327	56865	8173	460	2 6½	..	20	52	7 10 7		
7	280	90	23457	6801	8400129	51887	6494	2 6	..	100	481	47 12 11		
8	7	..	426	..	8516	910	105	2 5	..	..	35	1 19 7
9	14	1	766	91	15158	1890	119	2 4	..	32	15	3 11 9		
10	12	..	699	..	11637	1334	152	2 4½	..	9	9	2 1 6		
11	463	110	27813	8653	502295	72657	6483	2 6	..	225	220	97 0 3		
12	25	9	1937	446	36326	4311	770	3 0	..	18	27	6 17 4		
13	11	..	672	..	15389	2116	193	2 8	..	..	7	3 19 6
14	9	..	355	..	8311	1066	95	2 3	..	..	..	2 7 8
15	37	13	2367	480	43130	6065	432	2 8	..	16	51	7 16 3		
16	434	127	24198	9120	451459	64542	5143	2 6	..	..	686	76 9 0
17	8	..	418	..	8431	829	86	1 10	..	7	4	2 5 8		
18	19	1	891	98	18757	2462	228	2 5½	..	13	27	6 8 0		
			1684	424	107500	30258	1978756	277519	25790	..	298	746	2060	351 1 4
19	..	14	..	1165	24689	246	160	1 5 0	
20	..	7	..	477	8170	139	
			1684	445	107500	31900	2011615	277904	25950	..	298	746	2060	352 6 4

s 16 Months.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
								House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTH NORTHUM- BERLAND	23	24156	376599	50026	20204	99183	129205	66479	156960	24881
" 2—SOUTH NORTHUM- BERLAND	16	50750	834015	156640	30497	156319	348680	207198	396812	27051
" 3—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND ..	19	32984	425641	23673	30991	114728	156386	35570	201389	39555
" 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUM- BERLAND	22	39833	962958	69781	34071	153723	242653	290552	408708	43772
" 5—EAST DURHAM	21	80284	1097638	161591	63650	299256	407335	258218	469128	61262
" 6—SOUTH DURHAM....	20	51681	1102446	33283	31303	216457	208968	244501	577689	49753
" 7—SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	20	72461	630879	73755	58392	194989	306459	122761	224255	21377
Totals, 1914.....	141	352149	5430176	568749	269108	1234655	1799686	1225279	2434941	267651
Totals, 1913.....	141	335391	5136348	563399	237523	1174914	1776859	1250345	2179425	243443
Increase .....	..	16758	293828	5350	31585	59741	22827	..	255516	24208
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25066	..	..

NORTHERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	739	337	47996	20454	1026790	144055	16237	107	283	1046	119 18 1
2	1580	769	92549	43888	1751661	284628	38977	..	473	1527	247 6 3
3	793	293	55248	15795	1004471	157192	25410	68	609	1165	161 6 10
4	1114	367	78391	23376	1842082	344132	40798	3	3000	1159	196 14 6
5	2283	519	136622	33195	2757237	492950	47859	29	1157	3421	361 10 9
6	1414	402	97900	30484	2105409	402182	48734	..	309	1246	260 6 0
7	1684	445	107500	31900	2011615	277904	25950	298	746	2060	352 6 4
	9612	3132	616206	202092	12499265	2103043	243965	505	6577	11624	1698 8 9
	9610	2971	581992	173462	11891624	1992022	222212	406	5584	5438	1642 6 2
	2	161	34214	28630	607641	111021	21753	99	693	6186	56 2 7

NORTH-WESTERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
WESTMORLAND, YORK (EAST AND WEST RIDINGS), and ISLE OF

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—AIREDALE DIST.—									
Addingham	326	4716	..	235	1615	1045	1263	1275	180
Allerton	405	3715	663	617	1371	749	1485	2614	208
Bingley	3368	92225	14015	4380	11533	20432	46415	36828	1295
Birkenshaw	3370	43237	300	1962	10333	10097	12143	18490	170
Bradford (City of)	22405	471163	17905	10194	88733	187411	87022	191178	7231
Bradley Coal	69	69	..	60	60	12	..	46	34
Buttershaw	341	5667	320	158	1877	1633	559	3384	2137
Carleton	167	1511	..	47	640	498	..	689	44
Clayton	712	8768	731	102	2406	3200	895	4632	310
Cononley	443	2321	20	369	928	386	..	2010	..
Cowling	278	2700	846	164	1953	1547	..	615	143
„ and District Coal	294	140	15	218	52	94	..	233	132
Cross Hills	432	3363	25	42	1217	1565	..	1205	112
Denholme	589	6877	3983	836	2410	2548	274	7801	146
Eccleshill	509	6720	147	107	2865	3855	..	1329	365
Gargrave	309	2071	6	367	1225	564	..	1355	154
Great Horton	5767	104769	6909	1830	20140	32986	30445	41505	728
Greengates & Apperley B.	577	7370	524	431	1889	1114	847	6280	411
Guiseley	1254	24115	2704	1172	5230	7878	5440	11841	1241
aHainworth	17	22	15	17	64	8	..	30	16
Harrogate	4951	34941	3770	2426	11499	17489	1182	15053	891
Haworth	1074	15494	2746	1389	3379	4097	360	14736	432
aIngleton	393	4510	..	193	1695	801	286	1813	529
aIngrow	69	354	..	..	245	..	..	480	222
Keighley	11456	203877	11653	10211	31097	29542	59603	117739	1150
Leeds	47967	904397	26060	67804	299892	401204	146121	274745	16813
Lees and Cross Roads	548	7121	1227	769	2827	3199	1473	3053	269
aLow Wortley	1083	4753	4003	125	2675	3429	3230	925	815
Oxenhope	191	3483	330	253	1093	743	1185	1419	166
Queensbury	2195	40037	4330	1266	8895	14675	5713	20220	860
Rawdon	1481	23327	741	1464	8724	6990	2343	9979	1125
Ripon	805	4546	40	421	1239	2169	904	1393	..
aSettle	373	2649	2041	61	1288	546	2779	520	265
Silsden	1100	23397	1620	873	5285	12137	3734	7115	634
Skipton	2031	34633	54	1940	8859	15029	6182	10999	1260
Stanbury	102	770	102	238	321	303	..	855	292
Stanningley Coal	1400	175	..	1010	23	334	..	951	309
Steeton	461	5790	1929	114	1704	3044	840	3046	151
Sutton Mill	532	5639	..	191	1977	1458	1832	1937	114
„ Coal	235	137	..	..	5	..	..	216	24
Thornton	638	8774	1291	601	2185	4708	836	5084	128

SECTION.

CARNARVON, CHESTER, DENBIGH, DERBY, FLINT, LANCASTER, STAFFORD, part of MAN, for 1914, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	8	..	452	..	10631	1433	176 2 4	..	..	18	1 13 5
2	8	..	490	..	12432	1993	151 3 0	..	..	16	2 0 8
3	71	38	4991	2388	111396	16670	2955 3 0	..	151	126	20 15 0
4	64	8	3758	450	96037	15824	1676 3 0	..	16	59	17 1 10
5	473	376	22746	16075	8422824	70209	9070 2 8½	..	190	758	115 7 2
6	1	..	15	..	307	47	3 4	..	..	..	....
7	8	1	657	75	12785	2048	227 2 11	..	..	..	1 15 4
8	2	..	161	..	3841	344	63 2 0	..	..	6	..
9	10	5	775	266	17817	2541	313 3 0	..	5	2	3 14 2
10	3	..	229	..	8380	1193	93 3 7	..	..	6	2 4 5
11	5	..	326	..	8506	864	135 3 0	..	..	9	1 8 8
12	2	..	135	..	2453	3	7	..	..	5	..
13	4	2	309	108	9144	1355	140 2 5½	..	..	1	2 6 0
14	13	4	853	260	20204	3240	264 3 0	..	1	19	3 0 1
15	13	..	837	..	11495	1685	263 2 11	..	..	5	2 13 0
16	4	..	258	..	8328	1246	104 3 4	..	..	5	1 11 4
17	128	59	7221	2035	150904	25196	4097 2 10	..	78	95	29 6 3
18	9	3	575	211	16104	3004	381 3 1½	..	..	16	2 17 7
19	24	11	1505	598	33832	5912	970 2 11	..	..	39	6 9 9
20	1	..	36	..	583	70	1 2 8	..	..	..	....
21	87	12	5646	982	85862	11624	1263 2 2	..	130	51	23 0 0
22	22	4	1385	294	33397	5320	497 3 0	..	24	26	5 8 10
23	12	..	602	..	11888	1386	204 3 0	..	..	7	2 1 8
24	2	..	120	..	2200	424	13 3 0	..	..	..	..
25	154	146	9864	8078	282265	48948	7938 3 0	..	399	628	58 10 4
26	1680	578	98608	39978	1685017	253728	31038 2 9	..	1670	818	246 2 0
27	12	4	826	194	18509	2967	251 3 0	..	20	8	2 17 0
28	11	6	691	115	13560	1732	194 2 7	..	..	8	5 4 2
29	2	..	137	..	6411	1083	130 3 6	..	..	4	1 0 5
30	36	36	2459	1826	57825	9641	1500 3 0	..	25	119	11 2 8
31	27	3	1834	291	41857	6064	996 3 0	..	..	43	7 12 0
32	12	..	610	..	10528	1021	141 1 10	..	14	8	4 1 9
33	5	1	429	72	9401	1186	112 2 6	..	..	3	..
34	21	16	1385	702	34552	6878	924 3 0	..	..	15	5 10 0
35	45	22	3144	1100	66095	10904	1301 2 10	..	..	90	10 6 7
36	1	..	112	..	3549	454	35 3 1½	..	..	2	0 10 10
37	2	..	216	..	5307	..	..	..	..	11	..
38	10	2	612	153	12845	1861	221 3 0	..	..	..	2 7 1
39	7	..	469	..	15030	2532	217 3 2	..	..	5	2 12 0
40	1	..	75	..	969	117	7 2 6½	..	..	..	..
41	9	6	745	323	17682	2999	332 3 0	..	..	29	3 5 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
AIREDALE DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tong Park	73	402	205	85	462	18	..	223	99
Uppertown	451	5897	98	430	1487	1205	1695	2297	223
Wibsey Slack Side	450	10252	153	377	1551	2459	1200	7043	203
Wilsden	407	5194	371	783	1592	1355	196	3940	142
Windhill	7941	122574	9262	5561	25056	26925	44309	56399	271
	139041	2264752	121154	121803	581596	831482	472041	896260	39544
Productive Societies—									
Airedale Worsteds	454	7235	2261	1517	9371	410	..	1270	2332
Bradford Cabinet Makers	74	2939	3138	428	3277	2273	..	503	756
Keighley Laundries	17	4012	3390	..	165	7185	..	74	158
Total	130586	2278938	129943	123838	594409	841350	472941	898107	42790
No. 2—BOLTON DISTRICT—									
Adlington	807	11955	753	1690	3992	4207	4652	2641	960
Ainsworth New Road	294	3119	..	165	520	407	..	2663	110
" Old Road	403	7155	..	329	924	615	2020	4566	..
Bamfurlong	544	9924	453	207	3146	2842	1169	3691	858
Bolton	38638	954228	46291	43592	82277	177529	426208	306991	..
Bryn Gates (Bamfurlong)	540	8180	528	421	2429	2283	2232	3185	1129
Chorley	3242	42156	9411	3074	12387	15869	13921	16616	252
Eagley Bridge	806	18516	3334	478	3039	4080	9042	6181	73
Earlestown	3089	30440	1908	1669	8066	15484	2793	14969	7237
Edgworth	534	10986	9342	454	1739	1279	3280	15280	150
Egerton	314	5653	1965	295	946	949	..	6586	..
Farnworth and Kearsley	7908	132757	37664	12676	23510	52977	42933	76880	871
Heapey	273	4794	52	640	522	588	2725	2257	..
Hindley	2253	26985	3056	1510	4978	8405	300	21938	210
Hindsford	816	9926	2404	1162	3635	5202	3531	2418	583
Horwich	3530	42672	6382	2477	9729	10283	6436	30592	1811
Hulton and Chequerbent	200	4328	316	334	770	377	1896	2739	49
Leigh	11954	197219	9112	13956	55142	82214	34971	69959	1570
Little Hulton	1016	21036	3903	950	3562	9622	9622	5497	345
Little Lever	695	17414	3390	1682	1764	1751	1533	18297	122
Park Lane	1332	22186	830	1038	6965	8946	2580	7326	1209
Radcliffe and Pilkington	4823	93299	10900	7605	16156	19519	28941	53696	355
Skelmersdale	1241	9639	..	1163	2918	2470	..	6786	452
Tyldesley	1794	25360	8304	3328	6547	8598	4947	16475	827
Walkden	2700	75205	10964	2968	11092	16035	23842	45934	..
Westhoughton & District	72	2000	..	260	1082	1234	..	266	422
" Friendly	1158	24978	1290	666	7283	5118	5599	11191	223
" United	1433	39529	2583	1393	5822	7866	4299	28836	431
Wheulton	125	1722	538	260	240	168	500	1812	..
White Coppice	23	150	..	46	84	4	..	116	7
Whittle-le-Woods	268	4488	298	267	1120	474	629	2439	153
Wigan	7226	79994	5598	3071	23611	23741	5346	47021	2658
Withnell (Brinscall)	514	10154	2236	1234	1182	2755	4768	5481	327
	100496	1947517	173895	111060	307179	493931	650715	931325	15603
Productive Society—									
Bolton Cabinet Makers	61	1531	1629	854	3280	219	..	538	436
Total	100557	1949048	180524	111914	310459	494150	650715	931863	16039

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	£					£	£	£	£	£
42	1	..	102	..	2650	388	19	2 10 1	..	..	..	0 7 6
43	6	5	518	204	13122	1620	223	2 8	..	..	19	2 6 2
44	9	1	663	96	14555	2774	409	3 3	..	..	13	2 6 10
45	8	..	592	..	14033	2329	151	3 0	..	2	11	2 1 4	
46	171	73	9888	5159	218770	36157	4539	2 11 1	..	150	253	38 8 3	
		3204	1422	188061	82933	3635972	560023	73741	2875	3356	651 16 7
47	..	47	..	2308	20433	961	355	0 4	35	18	28	4 10 0	
48	..	31	..	2466	5634	181	145	..	..	..	4	0 12 0
49	..	40	..	1794	4189	218	100	..	..	..	..	0 7 6
		3204	1540	188061	89501	3666228	570383	74341	..	35	2898	3388	657 6 1
1	26	7	1636	442	28754	4693	450	3 0	..	3	24	4 5 11	
2	2	..	215	..	6373	1309	151	4 0	..	2	6	1 8 10	
3	4	..	296	..	8807	1979	274	3 10	..	..	7	2 2 6
4	25	5	1377	393	26994	4115	397	2 6	..	..	5	2 17 9
5	725	299	55402	17482	956096	175466	29877	3 0	..	3632	880	195 17 1	
6	20	9	1086	525	26062	4727	364	3 0	..	45	14	2 6 10	
7	80	25	4862	1537	90824	15355	1884	3 0	..	170	27	16 15 0	
8	20	5	1560	484	27483	4045	655	2 5	..	51	19	4 3 4	
9	71	19	3659	1740	84030	13308	1079	2 11	..	77	34	15 9 4	
10	11	5	776	333	19460	4538	417	3 2	..	..	37	2 14 0
11	5	2	439	117	13854	2022	234	2 11	..	..	35	1 14 11
12	185	76	12588	4782	238299	41697	5360	3 0	..	155	401	39 14 2	
13	6	..	502	..	10560	1977	237	3 9 1	..	..	10	1 8 0
14	61	13	3213	1110	69696	11855	1211	3 0	..	70	61	10 12 3	
15	30	3	1958	313	38938	7360	433	3 0	..	..	44	4 0 6
16	74	23	4746	1774	105512	17067	1626	2 11	..	235	129	17 6 3	
17	5	2	228	81	57452	1570	147	3 10	..	..	4	1 0 7
18	368	123	23794	10761	493459	76644	7606	3 0	..	686	301	60 12 4	
19	30	15	1988	850	43039	7512	897	3 0	..	67	38	5 4 0	
20	12	3	893	192	24594	4234	746	3 0	..	..	58	3 11 3
21	42	13	2361	844	57128	8637	890	2 10	..	89	45	7 0 7	
22	123	38	7135	3126	163070	28060	3560	3 0	..	603	152	24 7 5	
23	23	3	1314	198	30650	4348	460	2 6	..	30	18	6 7 1	
24	64	23	3967	1598	81819	14552	958	3 0	..	160	142	9 0 3	
25	98	41	6465	2467	108343	12931	2704	3 0	..	230	122	13 7 9	
26	7	14	243	700	5172	912	100	3 5	..	..	..	..
27	25	17	1869	909	47500	9006	1080	3 4 1	..	30	39	6 0 0	
28	36	24	2449	1159	66217	13393	1702	3 4 1	..	70	100	7 3 4	
29	2	..	186	..	3842	774	82	4 0	..	5	12	0 13 0	
30	1	..	57	..	510	63	8	1 11	..	..	..	..
31	7	..	445	..	11085	2027	219	3 7 1	7	..	29	1 9 2	
32	233	50	13696	2788	216248	28107	3041	2 6	..	642	242	38 0 11	
33	11	1	778	99	19226	3582	472	3 4 1	..	54	12	2 11 7	
		2432	858	162183	56804	3131696	528765	69321	..	7	7106	3047	509 5 11
34	..	36	..	2609	5450	175	57	0 10 0
		2432	894	162183	59413	3137146	528940	69378	..	7	7106	3047	509 15 11

s Nine Months.

u Other Societies.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 3—CALDERDALE DIST—									
Barkisland	122	999	..	189	620	196	123	561	41
Blackshawhead	100	1351	50	218	284	95	38	1344	8
Brighouse	8400	151452	5681	8032	37139	35777	44683	76042	d384
Copley	209	856	..	100	717	7	..	909	..
Cragg Vale	224	4133	754	257	1178	795	256	3248	206
Halifax Coal	1306	997	..	460	100	207	443	235	1124
Industrial	12280	131046	17714	8095	51589	59700	17897	48347	..
Hebden Bridge Industrial	2899	70996	8321	3873	12174	10616	19881	41770	568
Heptonstall	438	6462	165	553	1454	1420	533	4522	315
Holmfild	288	3787	771	75	1135	1217	882	1974	..
Coal	282	354	75	..	24	388	..	41	72
Illingworth	200	2010	263	..	474	1093	..	782	125
Luddenden	438	5700	668	496	1995	1001	1529	2882	453
Luddendenfoot	633	11632	557	431	2319	2989	2437	6198	e320
Midgley	409	7077	316	642	1535	584	788	6094	357
Mytholmroyd	668	14835	482	495	2375	2799	..	12505	..
Peckett Weir	145	2274	735	252	680	472	1420	792	64
Ripponden	641	10380	380	407	3340	1926	1908	6206	e161
Siddall	331	3990	60	77	830	1828	472	1819	49
Sowerby Bridge Industr'l	3435	50709	25964	1038	10571	18921	24371	39941	248
Stainland & Holywell Gn.	843	19695	185	499	2466	2824	2356	13347	602
Todmorden	4609	142581	188	7879	23665	26344	54844	64102	712
Bridge End	780	39963	..	239	2922	4930	12990	13379	..
Wainstalls	178	2608	50	317	795	418	575	1566	207
Walsden	722	28383	43	1165	2687	5212	9615	13188	145
	40640	706170	63422	35789	163068	187765	198041	361790	6161
Productive Societies—									
Calderdale Clog Sundries	134	1700	632	546	532	1652	..	338	515
Manufact'g (Walsden.)	919	96802	..	2290	32700	27675	..	18458	32025
Halifax Flour	884	32000	400	14834	10098	12713	1682	21429	4997
Hebden Bridge Fustian	1600	90263	..	1966	42068	30566	..	5062	15697
Sowerby Bridge Flour									29
Total	44177	926525	64454	55425	248466	269371	190723	407077	50395
No. 4—CHESHIRE & NORTH WALES DISTRICT—									
Bangor	293	1036	138	140	676	496	..	307	116
Birkenhead	14290	98703	18897	3385	25821	67676	..	41703	3681
aBromborough Pool	187	1138	..	42	1081	..	..	280	..
Brymbo	459	2153	3650	729	2482	1645	2232	333	350
Buckley	731	3695	2256	408	3108	2895	..	641	969
Cefn	1286	6131	1798	2144	4553	4453	748	1527	741
Chester	4611	57364	5511	15175	18047	45988	2500	16487	301
Chirk and District	657	4651	1151	725	2455	4427	1347	700	110
Colwyn Bay	840	5963	1168	545	3084	3622	840	769	441
Cynfal	43	233	561	109	404	136	..	295	95
aDeiniolen	53	67	..	..	103	40	..	98	11
Dolgarrag	85	86	200	..	..	..	..	..	..
bEiff Workmen's	112	984	..	210	669	24	..	890	..
Ellesmere Port	1640	11562	6789	843	5950	7280	4985	2779	350
Employes' Provident (Port Sunlight)	800	3502	197	512	3538	587	..	1330	199
Ewloe Place	146	1201	..	231	845	300	..	264	166
Ffynnon Groyw	148	1070	1314	360	470	1058	1173	216	91
Flint and Oakenholt	670	4753	643	461	3295	3157	..	606	500
Garston	1470	10750	1540	554	2082	7052	538	880	175
Hawarden	416	2490	1818	268	1975	2364	275	266	208
Holyhead	1000	2445	1787	379	1917	1937	..	1498	..
Leeswood	121	687	1238	105	408	982	468	165	216

1914, NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

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No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			Co-operative Union.
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.		
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	2	145	..	2998	342	39	2 9	..	..	2	0 11 6	
2	1	107	..	2386	284	50	3 4½	..	..	4	..	
3	167	10799	7259	302480	57518	5666	3 5	..	100	103	43 0 0	
4	2	142	..	4637	920	41	3 6½	..	..	2	..	
5	4	273	..	6683	933	201	3 3	..	2	2	1 3 2	
6	6	594	..	4626	655	6	3 4	..	..	2	..	
7	269	16400	7548	369011	58507	4723	2 11	..	130	180	62 8 10	
8	56	50	3884	2639	88578	15692	2538	3 0	327	88	15 0 7	
9	9	592	..	13934	2024	270	3 0	..	..	2	2 5 10	
10	3	216	85	6844	1169	156	3 0	..	..	5	1 10 0	
11	2	188	..	826	112	16	2 9	..	..	..	..
12	3	258	..	5308	672	95	3 0	..	..	2	1 1 0	
13	6	526	72	13109	2497	235	3 6	..	4	9	2 6 2	
14	10	640	130	18649	4251	570	4 0	..	8	10	3 4 7	
15	5	347	84	10834	2043	293	4 0	..	..	17	2 9 4	
16	..	1164	..	20057	3412	401	..	..	..	..	3 10 0	
17	2	122	..	4197	675	92	3 10½	..	..	3	0 15 6	
18	17	973	301	26123	4245	553	3 8½	..	..	26	3 6 7	
19	3	230	..	6573	1312	155	3 6	..	4	2	1 13 6	
20	75	5039	2600	125410	25510	2511	3 9	..	36	104	18 3 10	
21	11	973	389	26126	3802	776	2 9	..	..	16	4 6 11	
22	109	60	7367	4353	162248	30530	5734	3 0	481	165	24 3 11	
23	13	4	1297	202	30063	5898	1158	3 6	86	17	2 0 5	
24	4	272	..	7474	998	134	3 8	..	..	4	0 19 3	
25	14	2	076	135	19736	4030	824	3 4	..	80	3 15 1	
793		398	53224	25857	1279310	228031	27366	..	..	1258	750	197 16 0
26	..	16	..	914	3946	238	84	0 6	25	..	5	1 0 0
27	..	84	..	7710	411674	12491	4017	0 4	..	18	183	10 0 0
28	..	297	..	16340	58477	6233	1598	1 0	818	..	30	10 0 0
29	..	92	..	6728	345996	11103	3777	..	..	..	148	10 0 0
793		887	53224	57549	2099403	258006	36842	..	843	1276	1116	228 16 0
1	5	288	..	5080	521	35	1 11	3	..	2	1 9 0	
2	357	43	17059	4015	277387	32673	4020	2 0	306	679	62	53 0 7
3	6	464	..	8645	1352	51	3 1	..	..	5	..	
4	11	753	130	13672	1305	89	1 9	..	..	5	2 7 0	
5	17	7	858	540	30750	2984	100	2 3	..	10	13	3 2 6
6	28	7	1728	468	39467	6112	267	2 6	..	8	77	5 6 10
7	140	31	8281	1979	109064	19337	2731	2 6	..	65	68	23 4 4
8	24	4	1381	244	22857	2827	211	2 6	..	..	17	3 6 8
9	17	3	1000	270	15481	1813	192	2 0	..	..	5	3 16 3
10	2	..	109	..	2979	121	11	1 2	..	..	2	..
11	2	..	73	..	1755	178	3	1 6	..	..	..	0 5 9
12	3	..	80	..	902	..	0 9	..	..	..	..	..
13	..	..	163	..	7132	1396	21	..	..	..	..	0 11 8
14	57	24	4152	..	43365	5118	532	2 0	..	124	23	8 6 8
15	28	9	1622	580	26131	2753	147	1 11½	60	30	7	3 19 6
16	4	..	204	..	6002	732	42	2 6	..	..	..	0 14 0
17	3	..	262	73	3468	280	36	1 24	..	..	..	0 15 5
18	25	4	1316	189	26068	4072	192	2 9½	..	..	11	3 8 9
19	37	10	2239	813	33560	3780	482	2 0	..	7	6	7 5 10
20	9	3	600	74	13720	1633	131	2 4	..	..	10	2 0 10
21	17	3	1084	189	18068	1973	103	2 0	3	..	2	4 15 10
22	3	..	218	..	4660	407	28	1 6	10	..	15	0 12 10

s Nine Months.

v Seven Months.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES DISTRICT—Con.									
Liverpool (City of).....	19200	£ 104023	£ 15463	£ 14357	£ 40570	£ 88940	£ ..	£ 22884	£ 143
(Toxteth).....	14149	88896	24235	4488	31723	82203	3495	9060	111
Llanberis	212	460	..	159	228	101	..	1350	361
Llandudno Junction	347	1012	50	322	572	74	..	850	155
Llanfairfechan	182	272	..	..	320	30	..	170	75
Llanrug	122	419	1335	..	209	458	..	246	670
Mold Junction	216	948	..	3	763	52	..	291	27
New York (Penmaenm'r)	338	1327	731	200	889	1218	..	656	69
Oswestry	1019	4801	1809	84	2410	3268	1000	898	84
Pant-y-Fownog	101	438	..	160	365	150	300	55	67
Penyffordd	120	164	433	30	232	92	402	195	134
Queen's Ferry	1747	13870	5648	482	5632	5795	6458	3244	320
Rhyl	266	545	25	72	463	125	..	287	101
a Rivals	20	57	..	..	73	10	..	20	..
Runcorn and Widnes	8904	124487	3814	7842	31029	43659	49432	30795	..
St. Helens	14250	67175	36277	27388	35995	48322	19356	53491	d1531
St. Martin's	91	610	321	110	224	474	200	119	73
a Sychtyn	92	493	400	5	204	410	265	120	95
Warrington	15051	105158	924	17404	30036	56015	7859	54288	..
Whiston	734	4493	1506	584	3192	1499	1991	801	466
Wrexham	1767	10068	2001	889	4469	7399	2463	2045	508
Total	109016	751285	145628	101904	272651	496413	108327	262899	13730
No. 5—DEWSBURY DIST.—									
b Altofts	333	1658	..	200	910	..	..	1868	..
Batley	5640	137568	1423	942	19889	43728	52813	33079	1137
Battleyford (Mirfield)	340	5972	837	313	1046	1649	1636	3914	215
Beeton	180	2408	63	132	628	598	1233	435	154
Birstall	2171	35949	898	1778	5308	3101	10054	23498	128
Churwell	561	8698	104	650	1481	2799	4535	2154	237
Cleckheaton	5017	78769	12911	6737	18676	25397	38705	26045	3238
Crigglestone	439	1319	673	921	1326	1169	464	790	774
Dewsbury	13025	335898	1151	8480	39330	72556	62595	194820	2085
Drighlington	1106	17281	..	100	3737	6117	2290	7049	..
a Farnley	603	1291	..	214	1771	474	..	1504	..
Gomersal	1031	15841	..	905	3238	2431	4000	8672	442
Grange Moor Friendly	158	2752	..	190	817	295	300	2093	292
United	100	1792	..	145	590	641	494	407	409
Heckmondwike	8297	184150	7053	4416	21143	26510	40090	127579	1143
Hopton (Upper)	142	3620	460	204	654	600	..	3444	157
Horbury	1790	30256	3053	1127	7518	8822	11441	8698	1294
Liversedge	971	5749	32	473	2087	2315	..	2797	73
Middlestown	770	7725	264	2070	3400	3306	1284	4346	1465
Mirfield Industrial	1765	31022	5224	1518	5963	6152	6168	24428	1131
Perseverance	835	8273	291	422	3196	1755	441	4612	393
Morley	7217	125924	931	5748	21152	28732	24525	68302	960
Ossett	3291	44452	200	646	11500	15108	800	21826	1026
Ravensthorpe	560	8026	771	568	1043	1744	2950	4248	174
Wakefield Borough	2252	18026	..	1531	4480	5344	3000	10853	869
Industrial	6022	39079	13053	3494	18541	38240	4909	6013	2561
Special Society— West Yorkshire Coal Fed- eration	65217	1153438	49392	43924	199474	209583	274727	594374	20357
Productive Society— Dewsbury Co-op. Laundry	45	16574	50	826	..	..	..	18019	5312
Total	65202	1170012	49442	44750	199474	299583	274727	612393	25660
Total	10	3352	539	222	89	4180	..	102	323
Total	65272	1173364	49981	44972	199563	303763	274727	612495	25992

d Hire Purchase.

f Drapery.

x War Relief Coupons.

		No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
		Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
											Educational Pur. poses.	Charitable Pur. poses.	Co-operative Union.		
				£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s.	d.
23	306	75	24461	5740	392439	47513	3514	2 0	..	964	180	82 12	6		
24	297	48	16993	3672	234984	30647	3185	2 0	..	342	128	50 0	0		
25	4	..	258	..	9568	1287	20	2 10	..	..	..	1 2	6		
26	6	..	404	..	6862	793	43	2 0	..	..	7	1 13	4		
27	4	..	48	..	1931	134	4	1 5	..	..	..	1 0	0		
28	2	..	172	..	3579	76	..	..	..	..	..	1 5	0		
29	8	3	436	179	7117	403	44	1 7	..	..	..	1 13	2		
30	6	2	462	93	10205	1194	55	2 2½	..	..	2	5 2	8		
31	20	5	1105	345	19021	1770	172	1 10	..	17	8	0 10	5		
32	2	..	177	..	4250	655	18	3 0	..	..	4	0 11	8		
33	2	..	135	..	2209	64	3	1 0	1	..	25	9 1	3		
34	41	7	2507	504	32832	5302	648	2 2½	..	20	4	1 1	0		
35	3	1	271	60	3882	211	23	1 6	..	..	4	45 8	6		
36	..	..	20	..	1081	63	2	2 10	..	..	..	71 13	4		
37	205	53	14913	3752	251724	39236	4865	2 11	..	447	143	2			
38	325	78	20355	4335	431701	63865	2442	3 0	..	132	1164	3			
39	2	1	65	50	2039	270	27	1 9	..	..	3	0 8	4		
40	3	..	111	..	2939	297	24	2 0	..	..	2				
41	238	62	14935	4394	352926	64082	3622	3 2	..	539	330	70 14	0		
42	19	3	1216	275	25519	4483	143	3 0	10	5	20	3 9	2		
43	51	9	2543	660	39580	5120	416	2 0	..	..	11	8 12	0		
		2429	498	145521	33623	2547501	358841	28694	..	393	3399	2357	484 9	1	
1	..	..	497	..	16132	3576	75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	106	77	6985	3689	174349	32023	5010	2 11½	..	513	262	29 0	0		
3	6	..	367	..	8859	1103	243	3 0	..	..	4	1 16	4		
4	4	..	214	..	5468	793	90	2 10	..	4	1	0 18	9		
5	36	20	3149	975	57303	10251	1195	3 1½	..	117	105	11 0	8		
6	13	1	698	103	18620	3190	305	3 0	..	17	10	2 14	8		
7	130	47	7308	2786	164819	27195	1425	3 0	..	644	207	26 0	10		
8	10	1	539	95	15022	2850	64	3 3	..	4	12	2 1	8		
9	249	110	15672	4815	329807	62766	12789	3 0	..	1016	516	67 10	4		
10	16	4	1098	252	29202	5041	642	2 11½	..	..	51	5 10	0		
11	14	..	800	..	22470	3812	59	3 3	..	..	..	..	..
12	16	6	1058	211	27474	4879	629	3 0½	..	..	25	5 6	10		
13	2	..	251	..	7413	1446	113	3 8	..	1	6	0 17	2		
14	1	..	162	..	4385	917	75	3 9½	..	..	..	..	..
15	157	52	9678	5105	219882	44164	6666	3 2½	..	680	571	43 14	4		
16	1	1	156	73	5777	1141	137	3 6	..	..	2	0 15	0		
17	43	11	2541	876	56436	10835	1153	3 0	..	79	44	8 17	0		
18	15	..	932	..	20855	3923	258	3 4	..	..	54	4 16	3		
19	22	5	1212	368	30062	6333	308	3 11	..	15	31	4 0	2		
20	37	18	2272	1126	56200	10886	1243	3 4	..	10	73	9 0	2		
21	12	..	770	..	21411	4013	321	3 6	..	..	21	4 5	0		
22	118	76	8136	3861	197884	35129	4007	3 1	..	594	48	37 5	3		
23	42	25	2953	1584	85546	19175	1693	3 0	..	..	146	16 18	0		
24	6	..	430	..	11391	2336	298	3 4	..	..	6	2 16	9		
25	28	2	1849	166	52460	9816	854	3 3	..	..	1	..	..
26	144	29	7564	2022	148738	22056	1407	2 7½	..	253	10	31 5	0		
		1228	485	77291	28107	1788865	320659	41059	..	..	3947	2266	316 10	2	
27	1	..	133	..	48196	2058	676	0 6½	..	..	..	..	0 5	0	
		1229	485	77424	28107	1837061	331717	41735	..	..	3947	2266	316 15	2	
		..	48	..	2128	4352	895	331	0 9	..	..	..	0 5	0	
28	1229	533	77424	30235	1841413	332612	42066	..	..	3947	2266	317 0	2		

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
No. 6—EAST YORKSHIRE DISTRICT—									
Beverley	675	3002	392	523	1734	1064	135	1162	237
bCastleford and Allerton ..	4816	34296	..	3403	9298	193	..	42115	..
Industrial	3062	28311	2601	4003	12137	15734	6288	5388	2223
Driffield	340	2513	134	225	1111	1007	..	517	480
Escrick	119	371	221	290	516	26	..	516	252
Hull	20042	125196	19332	6474	45453	86563	5334	38100	6925
Kippax	945	5070	565	525	3171	3836	..	1048	702
Market Weighton	501	2635	205	266	1235	1177	136	632	385
Pocklington	235	815	..	43	858	79	..	532	229
bRiccall	80	78	5	136	316	23	..	324	..
Scarborough	1901	9680	596	522	3450	7083	673	1318	252
Selby	719	6947	535	446	1881	2187	20	4616	319
bSettrington	39	85	..	193	102	11	..	118	..
Tadcaster	761	5736	200	656	2786	1611	803	3115	427
aWetherby	605	3131	..	413	1682	175	..	1782	485
York	11350	130181	11811	2670	33344	66519	3676	61341	88
	47000	358047	36597	20848	119134	187948	17065	162624	13004
Productive Society—Hull Printers	80	2484	2659	1538	346	5741	..	308	641
Total	47170	360531	39256	22386	119480	193689	17065	162932	13645
No. 7—HUDDERSFIELD DIS.									
Brockholes	392	6087	656	322	1551	1444	1322	3413	270
Central Working Men's (Golcar) ..	500	7407	986	210	1915	3059	1260	3074	782
Close Hill	950	20339	942	2914	3302	2253	12076	9143	776
aCowms, Lepton	222	2058	60	32	353	158	..	2153	29
Crosland Moor	1042	17482	260	540	3387	3244	3655	10717	1125
Dogley Bar	180	2468	90	282	898	670	..	1633	191
Emley	444	3557	236	403	3187	897	38	1217	643
Flockton	280	2290	1245	581	1353	1187	752	1040	1180
Golcar	965	35950	2068	908	3606	4224	4833	31793	813
Hepworth	671	10626	1918	710	3269	2868	1072	7295	1408
Highburton	284	3073	..	321	938	553	..	2490	344
Hillhouse	2864	25210	..	702	6808	10661	3814	10081	6440
Hill Top (Paddock)	675	8102	250	630	1708	888	171	7509	639
Hinchcliffe Mill	962	8621	100	985	3733	3391	..	4016	1032
Holmfirth Boot and Shoe ..	74	900	..	145	658	132	..	333	92
Honley	1227	22116	3375	1252	4654	7289	4049	13269	813
Huddersfield	17405	220331	21510	8493	57616	110728	13555	92777	61326
Junction House (Slaithwaite) ..	308	2340	..	..	979	675	..	1539	375
Kirkburton	308	3381	..	366	1154	381	1074	1685	365
Kirkheaton	298	8513	..	472	1146	1564	3152	3744	639
Lane Dyehouse	465	7618	141	303	2315	1916	3368	1582	194
Lepton Field	165	1825	..	135	476	484	..	1560	73
Town Bottom ..	113	524	100	279	397	4	..	769	114
Linthwaite	930	12058	3315	303	2922	2021	5418	5885	1268
Longwood	719	11658	1224	418	3287	3413	5767	3925	478
Marsden Equitable	940	10985	10468	251	4744	9125	12784	3947	1070
Meltham Industrial	1193	30187	3870	1154	7034	5897	5355	21997	1336
“ Mills Provident ..	183	2296	..	411	550	..	..	2305	448
Milnsbridge	1835	13395	250	495	3466	3335	..	10023	6712
Netherthong	271	4285	784	263	1272	1786	838	1896	384
Nettleton	192	1425	177	177	408	1069	..	684	130
Parkgate and Berry Brow ..	973	21927	927	1595	3644	2853	10380	10727	629

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	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	14	..	832	..	12624	1139	132	1 6	..	20	7	3 7 8
2	..	..	4917	..	140714	32945	1517	..	..	..	..	..
3	85	30	4355	1620	120390	22191	1285	3 3	..	209	100	19 5 7
4	7	..	364	..	6602	397	127	1 0	2	6	1	1 13 3
5	3	..	155	..	6091	368	18	1 6	..	..	10	0 12 1
6	471	131	25093	4630	386948	44720	5618	1 11	..	950	262	91 13 4
7	27	3	1370	286	35206	5429	196	3 3	..	80	22	4 2 6
8	13	..	574	..	9837	946	116	1 9	..	10	4	2 3 9
9	6	..	321	..	6567	402	34	1 9 1/2	..	..	..	0 18 10
10	..	..	75	..	1636	32	3	..	..	..	..	..
11	37	4	2362	201	31780	3746	369	2 1	..	85	13	8 18 5
12	13	..	757	..	15859	1947	273	2 0 1/2	..	..	5	3 14 3
13	..	..	77	..	1316	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
14	17	2	924	145	20528	2647*	220	2 6	..	35	10	3 17 2
15	9	..	513	..	10518	1058	137	1 11	..	..	10	3 3 6
16	295	105	16413	8241	279956	37829	5984	2 0	1169	444	451	57 16 3
17	997	275	59102	15123	1086581	155796	16033	..	1171	1839	895	201 6 7
	..	33	..	1967	3380	45	156	..	..	..	..	0 10 6
	997	308	59102	17090	1089961	155841	16189	..	1171	1839	895	201 17 1
1	6	1	412	78	13607	1961	199	2 7 1/2	..	5	27	2 0 2
2	6	3	418	149	14737	2707	339	3 6	..	..	5	..
3	17	..	1339	..	32241	6303	828	3 3	..	27	36	4 17 11
4	3	..	123	..	5934	1090	77	3 7	83	..	3	..
5	19	5	1382	474	36772	6867	616	3 3	..	20	26	5 6 4
6	2	..	202	..	5649	1050	99	3 5	..	..	3	0 19 3
7	10	..	582	..	16474	2243	173	3 0	..	..	2	2 3 10
8	5	2	406	20	12089	1999	91	3 1 1/2	..	..	..	..
9	19	6	1432	350	36441	7719	1541	3 6	..	..	52	4 17 8
10	12	3	1019	69	31713	4380	405	3 1	..	10	12	3 9 7
11	4	..	293	..	9853	1802	123	3 6	..	..	2	..
12	54	11	3370	673	73188	10774	1232	3 0 1/2	..	..	60	13 19 8
13	8	..	684	..	18731	3792	396	3 8	..	2	6	3 9 5
14	17	..	1185	..	29350	4904	427	3 0	..	..	27	..
15	9	..	517	..	2600	341	36	1 9	..	..	..	0 10 0
16	23	7	1765	396	39442	5710	721	2 8	..	24	73	6 6 8
17	336	293	21468	21321	548225	80565	8000	3 0	..	760	852	86 11 0
18	6	..	427	..	8861	1898	116	4 5	..	..	3	1 10 10
19	3	..	249	..	10324	1695	122	3 2	..	..	4	1 10 4
20	6	1	383	73	12459	1812	316	3 3	..	..	42	2 7 10
21	11	1	717	126	13034	2053	314	3 0	..	..	7	0 15 10
22	1	..	161	..	5728	1082	82	3 6	31	..	..	..
23	1	..	128	..	4654	908	25	3 9	..	..	2	..
24	16	3	1089	256	26315	3871	494	3 2	..	..	3	4 16 13
25	14	4	752	469	25562	4405	466	3 31	..	..	20	3 13 6
26	29	16	1688	708	40065	5458	671	2 10 1/2	..	10	13	4 17 6
27	26	7	1722	564	52685	10400	1016	3 5	..	..	22	6 2 2
28	2	..	160	..	5540	1021	105	3 9	..	..	3	0 19 2
29	23	9	1334	744	46384	7842	542	3 4 1/2	..	11	46	8 15 10
30	6	1	357	42	9721	1332	110	3 0	..	..	9	1 8 1
31	2	..	191	..	5836	667	66	3 6	..	..	2	..
32	22	3	1467	195	35432	5948	799	3 0	..	38	21	4 17 11

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Build- ings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	- £	£	£	£
HUDDERSFIELD DIST.—Con									
Scapegoat Hill	256	4223	1859	400	1156	1232	..	4941	277
Scarwood Coal	h8	40	1837	103	268	2000	..	200	1221
Scissett	1111	8591	676	..	3435	4282	2132	3212	841
Sheepridge	365	6461	..	328	1755	1727	1214	2917	323
Shelley	405	3336	200	240	1170	1545	..	1919	489
Shepley	525	3270	4821	258	1379	1084	..	7485	..
Skelmanthorpe	468	7541	137	450	2830	3527	711	2172	514
Slaithwaite	2830	45946	26649	5098	8015	16549	4318	59277	931
South Crosland & Netherton	554	9910	..	562	3777	2449	1362	4642	546
Wooldale	596	12387	1435	700	2521	2584	3960	6981	487
	45078	630739	93166	34196	159039	225748	109230	367976	24816
Productive Societies—									
Colne Vale Corn Millers ..	h57	16931	7602	1500	8411	10449	..	4186	10076
Colne Valley Co-op. Baky	h7	1850	1174	36	150	1672	..	115	267
Wm. Thomson and Sons.	425	14345	16491	3912	27340	638	..	3095	10413
Total	45567	669865	118433	39644	104940	238567	109230	375282	45572
No. 8—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE, AND DIST.—									
Burslem	10660	61044	2295	5888	26829	43873	..	16124	1020
Butt Lane	1974	17736	3380	2194	6908	7647	6771	4466	1572
Congleton	3775	39988	10445	1007	9354	12964	5299	27407	3843
Crewe Friendly	11858	189400	15247	21930	47581	48819	57015	76547	22731
Disley	321	7096	742	715	692	1012	2911	4202	359
Dove Holes	392	3508	893	555	807	595	..	3650	656
Great Rocks	174	1364	440	284	762	84	1058	195	505
Hazel Grove	1338	23952	1208	1330	5052	7469	6355	8372	1232
Leek and Moorlands	3314	29946	4217	2010	10433	20242	4011	5597	1725
Macclesfield	6854	87043	33678	3653	19239	27143	35003	47154	4263
Malkins Bank	148	1666	..	161	366	..	..	1611	111
Peak Forest	78	892	100	524	497	10	..	545	698
Poynton and Worth	530	17277	..	710	2264	2802	3402	9543	464
Sandbach	2316	35678	3349	622	9665	12908	3293	16200	2177
Silverdale	4834	48224	254	7985	11696	12022	8783	28221	2968
Stockport	10800	142982	2723	4248	25982	46834	25952	65678	4736
Great Moor ..	430	5085	432	426	1355	1870	1036	2001	179
Styal	272	1424	..	373	668	173	..	1152	152
Whitehough	74	629	2	3	226	104	..	280	137
Winnington, Northwich, and District ..	4006	39878	22146	3843	14362	24676	21952	11117	935
Winsford	3249	31713	2078	3487	5082	17006	6071	8146	3357
Woodley	604	5822	1305	241	1508	2499	..	4812	..
Yongreave	587	3902	1528	2650	2356	1243	148	3536	1449
	68628	795349	106462	65748	206684	292085	189060	346616	55064
Productive Societies—									
Leek Silk Twist Manuf'g	119	8224	8647	2439	6522	4586	..	4628	6229
Macclesfield Silk Manuf'g	267	8668	9187	560	9579	3821	..	4582	2692
Nantwich Boot and Shoe	112	793	610	244	723	1121	..	..	321
Total	69126	813034	124906	68991	223508	301613	189060	355826	64306

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
33	5	2	407	117	10316	1988	167	3 7	..	..	10	1 7 2
34	2	..	184	..	14881	3752	4	4 0	..	..	..	0 5 0
35	19	..	837	..	31564	4715	..	3 0	..	..	7	..
36	5	..	414	..	11317	2114	421	3 2	..	14	7	1 16 6
37	6	..	447	..	14857	2598	276	3 3	..	..	3	..
38	..	..	701	..	17754	2508	155	..	..	..	..	2 14 5
39	10	..	630	..	17052	2557	130	3 0	..	30	70	1 3 7
40	53	58	3577	3328	124951	21871	1869	3 7 1	..	15	17	14 10 0
41	12	6	816	236	22754	3754	484	2 11	..	15	28	2 18 9
42	16	4	950	170	23107	3457	416	3 0	..	..	..	3 0 6
	846	446	56385	30558	1518199	243918	24020	..	118	981	1525	204 3 3
43	..	34	..	2438	118723	7805	833	0 5	65	1	50	1 1 0
44	..	7	..	233	3010	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
45	..	119	..	9736	42440	2943	684	..	..	9	136	3 5 0
	846	606	56385	42965	1682372	254666	26137	..	183	991	1711	208 14 3
1	256	48	10733	3317	228368	28902	2570	2 0	..	526	112	46 4 0
2	51	11	2756	670	57488	7681	762	2 6	..	94	60	9 17 6
3	79	24	5467	1560	114463	20597	1828	3 2 1	..	277	130	18 13 4
4	262	189	16963	11858	392287	65464	6191	3 0	..	72	997	58 0 0
5	7	..	437	..	11958	2097	217	3 0	..	40	10	1 10 5
6	4	..	298	..	9520	1358	118	2 7 1	..	31	..	2 0 10
7	3	..	241	..	4228	708	57	2 4 1	..	13	5	0 18 3
8	36	4	2330	461	44621	7959	817	3 1	..	..	113	6 17 1
9	54	25	3923	1626	80349	11847	1255	2 6	..	40	77	16 6 0
10	142	73	9471	3491	103505	30769	2903	2 6	..	400	259	34 8 8
11	3	..	154	..	4342	776	72	3 10 1	..	..	2	..
12	2	..	107	..	4011	399	42	2 6	..	..	..	..
13	14	1	1015	109	25144	4479	647	2 11	..	8	24	2 13 8
14	44	38	2619	2073	72854	12890	1604	3 1	..	105	142	11 14 0
15	84	16	4222	1217	115367	12582	1023	3 0	..	100	121	22 10 8
16	233	27	13723	2406	313495	53565	4628	3 0	..	490	380	50 14 3
17	9	..	680	..	12972	2107	177	2 6 1	..	..	7	2 4 0
18	6	2	359	118	5031	1028	59	3 0	..	..	3	1 6 1
19	1	..	92	..	678	60	20	1 3	..	..	..	..
20	128	39	6402	2233	102426	15088	1612	2 6	..	128	160	20 1 10
21	73	19	3755	1127	92724	15242	1406	3 0	126	..	106	17 3 1
22	..	..	850	..	16321	2877	161	..	..	..	..	3 4 8
23	11	..	680	..	16622	1897	220	2 6	..	9	10	2 19 4
	1502	516	87286	32266	1919674	300372	28389	..	126	2423	2736	320 7 8
24	..	102	..	5210	25184	1439	919	..	369	..	..	2 0 0
25	..	114	..	7347	18327	..	..	..	..	5	..	2 0 0
26	..	28	..	917	2856	..	20	..	..	..	..	1 1 0
	1502	760	87286	45740	1966041	301811	29328	..	495	2428	2736	334 8 8

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 9—MANCHESTER DIS.									
Beswick	14597	144754	14460	4480	25333	72501	764	77066	2087
Blackley	6374	111192	914	4663	20858	38666	28079	38899	1588
Broadbottom	302	1878	..	..	362	526	..	960	195
a Chisworth	163	1151	..	335	853	5	..	734	151
Clifton	550	13263	955	755	2733	4615	4492	4141	572
Compstall	3212	53772	11712	3971	9766	16818	18080	30865	1082
Denton and Haughton ..	1538	28486	3785	1551	4224	7460	4181	19096	1638
Droydsden	7212	92534	8889	7998	25355	43606	20628	27436	1519
Eccles	17946	312458	29470	10540	48574	106689	139593	92324	7847
Failsworth	10726	176217	16358	9665	28932	38768	61245	91401	1177
Glossop Dale	3316	73400	7073	4215	5868	11868	17088	54138	6307
Hadfield	1617	41163	6342	1870	5248	6337	5705	33084	478
" & Hollingworth Coal	42	1000	..	426	241	153	..	1413	188
Haughton Green	481	2251	605	1336	1218	748	1599	1105	335
Hayfield	563	5260	1165	487	1893	845	1198	3541	448
Hollingworth	777	13099	..	285	2437	2799	2500	5859	616
Hyde	3254	49436	10746	1539	12874	14293	17813	20451	1611
Manchester and Salford ..	17875	224441	10228	9114	32246	70596	76778	85873	4262
Middleton and Tongel ..	3823	87185	9208	7440	12908	20857	35112	30370	3460
Mossley	3191	80081	7317	6983	9454	7957	11084	70104	604
New Mills	2827	61124	1888	3207	8143	13059	22896	24021	2385
New Moston	604	6247	277	588	1262	2826	1126	2090	7
Pendleton	29386	430042	9719	20941	68562	122187	91829	218342	6646
Prestwich	4243	70981	45245	1920	12303	30993	68354	6516	1370
Rhodes	1158	23226	1526	806	4029	2269	9537	15220	1065
Roe Green—Worsley	211	8739	1267	343	847	1087	3504	5492	53
Swinton—Chorley Road ..	727	7827	1560	596	2782	3881	2058	1840	514
" Moorside	835	10596	1472	218	2514	3515	3905	3696	297
Whaley Bridge & Buxton ..	2140	32358	6802	1680	7042	7170	11210	18164	1890
Whitefield and Unsworth ..	1012	17418	39	776	2395	4269	5978	6404	183
Productive Societies—	140604	2181597	209031	108833	361256	662463	666406	1003789	37775
Co-op. Sundries Manufac- turing (Droydsden)	525	20589	6799	3668	12570	13428	..	3127	5654
Eccles Manufacturing	204	12295	10451	3025	11284	11765	..	1491	3418
Hyde Co-op. Laundry	9	2828	800	..	285	3052	..	467	18
Manchester & Dist. Laundry	413	19750	..	..	321	17963	..	3297	378
Manchester—Newspaper ..	348	11645	6165	1420	1736	10732	..	5401	2878
" Printing	716	22668	..	7696	11863	13527	..	5329	11938
Total	142479	2271372	233246	124642	399315	732960	666406	1022901	62059
No. 10—NORTH-EAST LAN CASHIRE DISTRICT—									
Accrington and Church ..	9522	293408	56303	6820	40786	42363	163286	126058	11881
" Provident	680	6837	5497	37	4587	7297	230	758	..
Barnoldswick	1837	26701	5501	1129	8154	16633	10872	1682	992
Barrowford Industrial	576	5799	1395	631	2068	2713	1426	2323	204
Billington and Whalley ..	633	15469	2521	1672	2595	8904	3393	5853	586
Blackburn—Dalsfield	4433	85010	5111	1791	12784	30534	34622	15961	2992
a " Excelsior	301	2262	..	309	575	288	1603	993	105
" Grimshaw P.	4206	53316	250	2597	5981	21037	16454	16637	..
" Industrial	4272	65022	7581	2060	13225	33133	26391	4848	1845
" Livesey	488	5302	15	370	1511	1912	2107	564	474
a Brierfield	1390	20698	8346	974	7325	9070	9490	6350	6216
Burnley	17965	219905	51645	9968	69338	99159	106155	31827	4223
Clayton-le-Moors	2364	53309	36280	2841	7084	8321	55937	23766	828
Clitheroe	1688	20161	4874	2093	5247	10758	3956	10197	646
Colne	5993	88739	18774	3312	24788	48504	41355	6719	1364
Darwen Industrial	8797	349448	25225	10366	20198	60864	165517	155724	267
b " Provident	1900	20144	4754	1202	6901	14271	..	8786	..
Earby	999	16481	1103	1318	5495	4635	2895	9167	261

d Hire Purchase System. e Coal. h Societies. k 53 Weeks.

p Productive Department and Hire Purchase.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		In- terest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.					
									Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charita- ble Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.			
			£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.		
1	280	49	19737	3221	351935	59744	6007	3 0	466	252	186	....	
2	174	36	10514	3725	175607	29550	4011	2 9	326	456	181	31 9 0		
3	3	..	232	..	3210	241	46	2 0	..	..	1	....	
4	3	..	283	..	5794	781	..	2 9	..	..	..	....
5	14	5	866	333	21489	3876	608	3 0	..	..	18	2 12 0
6	72	14	4779	1015	93482	18327	2070	3 4	..	164	77	15 19 8		
7	40	6	2914	473	58161	9395	1189	2 10	..	17	107	7 19 0		
8	170	28	11920	1966	205740	33196	3597	2 10 1/2	..	197	118	36 10 0		
9	510	136	28976	8983	546665	99663	13448	2 11 1/2	..	2155	226	92 4 2		
10	269	66	13245	10086	4290658	50966	6116	3 0	..	721	428	51 3 1		
11	76	17	4702	1283	106462	16098	2762	3 0	..	266	130	16 16 8		
12	29	18	2686	999	53934	8841	1513	3 0	..	20	98	8 8 4		
13	6	..	421	..	11731	2252	50	4 0	..	..	20	....	
14	12	2	846	194	15399	2974	81	3 0	..	..	32	2 7 7
15	12	1	808	96	14155	2447	217	3 1 1/2	..	14	11	2 17 8		
16	19	6	1365	479	25372	3743	498	2 11 1/2	..	70	25	4 0 8		
17	74	30	4643	2029	85797	13670	1729	2 9 1/4	..	149	137	16 16 0		
18	428	89	18237	3967	8308790	48177	5883	2 10	..	361	147	82 10 9		
19	115	47	7158	3868	150093	23591	3085	3 0	..	160	156	20 1 7		
20	68	19	4064	2186	98621	16695	2864	3 0	..	136	207	16 14 0		
21	62	16	3855	925	70594	12127	1987	3 0	..	151	131	14 1 0		
22	9	2	837	127	17056	2930	128	3 0	..	68	14	3 2 8		
23	756	162	48373	12600	793751	140990	17268	3 0	..	51	1762	148 19 2		
24	104	28	6371	2381	111417	17902	2715	3 0	..	229	111	21 10 0		
25	17	4	1166	807	31228	4871	924	3 0	..	35	25	5 17 5		
26	4	3	302	209	8198	1590	332	3 0	..	30	25	1 1 7		
27	21	3	1387	164	23488	3965	356	3 0	..	..	4	3 16 9
28	16	7	771	402	22767	3023	383	3 0	..	..	8	4 6 7
29	59	11	3443	695	72802	11627	1204	2 10	..	197	57	10 15 2		
30	14	4	1091	133	25337	3758	701	3 0	..	..	44	5 3 5
			3436	809	205992	63346	3794763	647910	81772	..	792	5899	4486	627 3 11
31	..	150	..	9665	81931	3088	1535	0 6	681	20	89	5 0 0		
32	..	100	..	6262	31528	1582	652	27	1 15 0		
33	..	52	..	2265	5199	237	106	11	0 5 0		
34	..	205	..	8013	17100	4101	623	3 4 1/2	1 0 0		
35	..	47	..	6818	24999	1474	532	89	15 0 0		
36	..	536	..	31169	888105	9792	844	0 6	488	..	421	12 10 0		
			3436	1899	205902	127538	4043025	668184	86064	..	1961	5919	5123	662 13 11
1	198	150	11783	12156	324042	58680	11860	2 10	..	697	365	49 5 7		
2	16	1	1100	47	17530	2579	326	2 11	9	3 17 6		
3	36	29	1948	1797	66209	9825	1137	2 8	30	8 18 6		
4	8	5	639	270	15398	2641	244	3 0	..	51	31	2 18 9		
5	17	7	908	349	17800	1448	471	3 0	..	36	20	3 3 4		
6	100	39	7176	3204	131226	18643	4033	2 2 1/2	..	8	124	22 18 4		
7	4	..	372	..	10661	2500	88	4 7 1/2	2	..		
8	75	52	5687	2418	117508	15860	2470	2 3	76	18 15 10		
9	111	29	6790	2166	122333	18636	2970	2 8	100	21 12 4		
10	12	..	761	..	17947	2791	260	3 2	12	2 10 8		
11	29	24	2356	1430	49311	10497	796	2 10	..	172	22	7 8 5		
12	304	300	22699	15983	502272	81134	9255	2 11 1/2	..	1803	261	92 14 6		
13	35	28	2430	1402	73469	13925	2105	3 0	..	265	74	12 1 0		
14	34	10	1631	592	52306	9088	787	3 0	..	122	111	8 0 0		
15	162	76	10254	5835	198181	29384	3605	2 8 1/2	..	322	150	30 5 0		
16	176	66	10861	6543	272338	52826	12313	3 0	688	610	456	45 9 7		
17	2587	..	34537	4806	712		
18	19	11	960	654	33093	6305	625	3 3	20	5 2 1		

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Great Harwood	3542	80175	15946	2955	18127	27990	44045	15048	2198	19
Higham	150	1688	83	135	467	450	..	1111	..	20
Hoddlesden	277	8004	2446	657	2445	4152	5130	2101	245	21
Lr. Darwen Excelsior ..	209	3579	1273	29	569	1454	2077	1147	..	22
Fore Street ..	267	5486	3832	250	1000	4580	772	3589	..	23
Low Moor—Nelson Street	217	2465	..	987	811	..	..	2426	287	24
Union Street	125	996	..	89	628	..	..	672	277	25
Nelson	9347	155284	23410	7653	34500	49281	99186	21518	2237	26
Oswaldtwistle	1805	52956	8447	2086	3751	5534	45135	11071	785	27
Padiham	2800	20638	6448	1080	7018	14923	5066	3484	804	28
Rishton	1420	32757	17530	1105	3186	11710	27050	11625	222	29
Sabden Industrial	344	5150	1347	586	1180	561	..	5913	..	30
Salterforth	69	1281	25	117	498	404	220	446	47	31
Trawden	360	2710	1978	475	1052	1467	923	2031	138	32
Wheatley Lane	146	2758	100	193	544	707	1082	1001	47	33
Winewall	296	4067	113	329	1545	1143	351	1827	121	34
	89419	1728095	318653	68252	315933	544752	878046	513223	24292	
Productive Societies— Burnley Self-Help Manu. North-East Lancashire Laundries	313 13	8759 4509	18806 2300	.. 100	12148 220	12203 6875	.. ..	144 174	3722 30	35 36
Total	89745	1741363	339759	68352	328901	563830	878046	513541	28044	
No. 11—NORTH LANCA- SHIRE DISTRICT.										
Bamber Bridge	760	5451	5699	294	3491	4589	3140	1253	472	1
Bentham	283	3925	121	101	1420	1368	407	1123	218	2
Blackpool	9972	146644	6170	2261	31071	50516	7127	75960	2331	3
Fleetwood	3100	20184	4430	1001	10003	9621	12539	5455	..	4
Fylde—Kirkham	775	20900	3566	2258	3715	4402	3783	14841	773	5
Gresgion Lane	121	1916	..	152	586	647	708	292	129	6
Higher Walton	193	2569	..	150	561	..	..	2687	..	7
Lancaster	12638	186157	7099	8530	31634	54628	56561	73217	1519	8
Leyland and Farington ..	1757	31675	3945	1212	7624	8827	9451	12741	..	9
Longridge	1311	26081	2268	1374	4593	5070	5794	15539	566	10
Preston	24249	268381	28564	23227	42942	71472	135049	105253	1808	11
Ribchester	207	3487	248	16	1353	715	1101	1040	121	12
Southport	1760	15136	2847	1674	6266	7646	6755	4501	400	13
Walmer Bridge	364	2800	..	270	662	1387	250	1288	..	14
	57490	743496	64066	42520	145921	221488	242665	315100	8337	
Productive Society— Blackpool Union Printers ..	140	1062	1137	169	334	1186	..	471	762	15
Total	57630	744558	66103	42680	146255	222674	242665	315661	9099	
No. 12—NORTH LONSDALE DISTRICT—										
Ambleside	372	3313	171	223	1514	1342	..	1343	187	1
Barrow-in-Furness	12835	163724	4551	10093	48211	61162	7731	80487	778	2
a Bronghton-in-Furness ..	178	1704	189	150	226	353	1170	301	92	3
Carnforth	1846	30357	2443	1341	6459	11649	11732	6034	1199	4
Coniston	248	2371	31	..	450	1109	..	584	375	5
Dalton-in-Furness	2534	47919	..	1406	13995	11328	5905	21802	1332	6

1914, NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

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No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
19	83	87	6010	6238	157220	28426	3474	3 0	..	180	219	18 4 7
20	2	..	162	..	4065	684	59	3 0	..	..	5	0 15 10
21	7	..	312	..	13148	1969	244	3 0	..	..	2	....
22	4	..	273	..	7368	1491	184	4 0	..	1	..	....
23	3	..	261	..	8535	1317	232	3 5	..	..	..	1 8 4
24	3	..	243	..	6888	1836	123	4 9	..	..	7	1 2 8
25	2	..	178	..	3011	931	58	4 6	..	..	2	....
26	212	175	14150	13171	319615	49691	6107	2 11	..	1158	47	47 3 8
27	34	25	2621	1779	60716	11872	2460	3 0	..	141	71	9 4 2
28	64	20	3570	2323	79432	12857	797	2 10 1	..	310	150	14 5 11
29	39	16	2615	1205	58096	10301	1243	3 0	..	102	106	7 8 0
30	5	..	403	..	9983	1630	197	3 4	..	..	26	1 15 10
31	1	..	95	..	2576	435	61	3 0	..	1	3	0 7 9
32	5	..	484	..	9752	1477	109	2 10	..	..	1	1 17 6
33	3	..	206	..	4693	739	115	2 10	..	..	2	0 15 9
34	6	3	646	145	9528	1408	155	2 9 1	..	15	..	1 9 8
	1809	1153	123161	79707	2810787	468632	69684	..	688	6091	2504	441 1 1
35	..	168	..	7294	52158	..	..	..	..	..	1	2 10 0
36	..	63	..	3458	6562	467	225	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
	1809	1384	123161	90459	2869507	469099	69909	..	688	6091	2505	443 16 1
1	18	2	1300	144	20696	3315	208	3 0	..	..	4	3 12 0
2	4	..	406	..	6818	864	178	2 8	..	..	5	1 9 2
3	167	136	10714	7832	200973	26790	5394	2 0	..	283	243	47 8 8
4	64	17	3922	1483	79033	11012	1098	2 5	..	231	120	15 14 0
5	22	3	1525	268	27931	5148	935	3 0 1	..	63	3	3 19 6
6	2	..	219	..	5149	849	66	3 0	1	..	..	0 11 10
7	3	..	262	..	8605	1829	120	4 0	..	..	6	1 0 0
8	195	59	10149	5725	227457	40650	6640	2 9 1	..	500	280	62 19 4
9	38	14	2099	988	43161	8433	1175	3 0	..	..	59	8 17 8
10	29	16	1983	888	37786	4842	900	2 6	..	120	51	6 12 5
11	385	137	15960	8917	385361	39072	7104	3 0	..	750	589	122 0 7
12	4	..	285	..	6289	920	146	3 0	..	..	8	1 1 3
13	50	5	2791	434	43286	5180	590	2 0	7	2	..	8 7 0
14	7	..	321	..	9057	1477	126	3 0	..	..	2	1 16 5
	988	389	51936	26679	1106602	150381	24680	..	8	1949	1370	285 9 10
15	..	18	..	1396	3056	287	53	..	..	..	3	1 5 0
	988	407	51936	28075	1106658	150668	24733	..	8	1949	1373	286 14 10
1	6	4	449	273	9239	1211	142	2 2	..	..	5	2 5 10
2	311	101	20397	7015	423650	70710	7766	2 11 1	..	38	287	63 19 3
3	3	..	148	..	2273	413	84	3 0	3	..	..	....
4	48	11	2877	589	48959	7303	1074	2 8	..	70	25	10 0 0
5	5	..	196	..	4250	595	107	2 0	..	..	..	....
6	80	22	3617	1441	80284	10767	2079	2 6	..	..	145	12 10 0

s Nine Months.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Property.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
NORTH LONSDALE DIS—Con		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Hawkshead	345	2476	158	201	1255	808	..	610	725	7
Kendal	2095	22052	883	1260	8402	11897	1521	3307	754	8
Kirkby-in-Furness	450	9605	680	467	2706	622	4772	3052	331	9
Langdale	327	4241	356	222	1384	1461	..	1902	546	10
Leven Valley	198	3059	719	103	1090	1038	1430	299	265	11
aLower Holker	223	2952	..	121	1406	655	505	575	231	12
Milloom	1796	30790	310	2512	10586	8300	1213	15000	1021	13
Sedbergh (New)	143	478	6	130	306	17	..	314	83	14
Swarthmoor & Ulverston	2404	46315	..	2626	7451	14223	12445	17614	1172	15
Windermere	274	2117	..	41	697	802	..	743	321	16
	26868	373593	10497	20896	106118	126826	48424	154147	9412	
Supply Association— aFurness and South Cum- berland	345	1860	..	727	1162	323	..	723	2024	17
Total	27213	375453	10497	21623	107280	127149	48424	154870	11436	
No. 13—OLDHAM DIST.—										
Ashton-under-Lyne	5571	123374	7133	11510	21388	39033	51830	38146	978	1
Crompton (Shaw)	3395	40566	7586	1690	9113	24863	11848	9270	250	2
Delph	797	22121	1433	282	2198	2311	9660	10259	578	3
Diggle	314	7093	4170	258	1064	2872	4000	3370	195	4
Dobeross	119	820	120	27	694	..	..	501	103	5
Grasscroft	355	5387	3192	241	1550	2095	1499	3847	384	6
Greenfield	797	25058	9059	435	1912	3519	21639	8674	132	7
Higher Hurst	1305	15548	13551	2607	5438	8058	5230	15657	307	8
Hurst Brook	895	6844	8849	1281	2657	6304	3181	6449	..	9
Junction—Delph	252	2726	50	179	1096	768	..	1423	299	10
Lees	998	13198	1920	..	2035	5295	1327	1110	113	11
Oldham Equitable	13221	260687	34137	22815	38937	60792	106942	127352	d156	12
Industrial	19039	251424	33535	25031	50590	40292	173923	71579	..	13
Royton	2348	32789	4746	372	7938	12502	18939	3508	d334	14
Stalybridge	4251	78296	4066	2476	11803	13385	11901	53621	/90	15
Uppermill	1308	31949	26	1212	3281	2736	3128	20737	569	16
Waterloo	844	20821	3896	1056	4019	6271	9093	7358	611	17
	55809	938701	137460	72432	166313	231096	434181	388861	5099	
Productive Society— Delph Woollen Manuf'g.	80	2094	838	51	1549	920	97	330	375	18
Total	55839	940795	138307	72483	167862	232016	434228	389191	5474	
No. 14—ROCHDALE DIST.—										
cBagdale	116	2512	2834	350	696	281	2732	2150	268	1
Brooksbottoms	13485	330602	4266	27161	37931	42626	101300	206400	536	2
Bury	143	1350	96	139	450	810	..	641	/84	3
Firgrove	416	6684	1151	2479	726	680	..	9121	..	4
bHealey	4099	74825	1021	7080	19525	18964	21510	30351	..	5
Haywood	89	792	..	183	451	21	539	129	46	6
Lane Bottom	2473	49206	1485	2161	10044	11433	13076	24001	970	7
Littleborough	302	2392	269	509	870	1263	..	858	525	8
Millgate										9

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
7	9	..	455	..	7354	629	104	2 0	..	..	1 11 2
8	55	8	2459	377	43886	4986	648	2 0	..	29	13 14 4
9	8	4	633	110	14089	2359	283	2 11½	..	20	2 5 8
10	7	2	360	98	8097	1083	173	2 1½	..	..	1 13 4
11	4	..	239	..	4998	716	111	2 7	..	..	1 0 10
12	3	..	240	..	5951	646	120	2 4	..	..	1 3 1
13	50	16	2749	1018	55508	8324	1310	2 7½	..	28	8 17 8
14	2	..	148	..	1240	220	20	1 10	..	..	0 13 6
15	65	18	3680	1904	74312	12151	1618	2 9	..	140	12 0 0
16	5	..	235	..	5111	557	61	2 0	..	..	1 4 4
	661	186	38882	12820	789201	122670	15700	..	3	302	681 132 10 0
17	4	1	318	30	14727	711	73	1 0	..	..	....
	665	187	39200	12850	803928	123381	15773	..	3	302	681 132 19 0
1	191	51	10840	4036	196899	31281	4792	3 4	..	393	413 30 4 0
2	97	17	6236	1710	120666	18035	1599	3 0	..	220	120 16 17 4
3	16	9	964	470	24715	4184	780	3 0	..	43	17 4 2 9
4	9	..	567	..	12561	1939	273	2 11½	..	7	16 1 9 4
5	3	..	130	..	5964	496	38	3 0	..	..	0 12 6
6	8	1	545	26	11583	1839	217	2 11½	..	3	16 1 16 8
7	17	..	1137	..	25089	4827	873	3 0	..	38	60 4 1 8
8	31	7	1885	386	49014	9653	734	3 4	..	102	66 6 14 10
9	20	..	1420	..	29948	4664	274	3 6	..	11	43
10	6	..	415	..	12315	1791	105	3 0	..	8	3 1 6 0
11	..	..	1021	..	16640	..	387	..	..	52	..
12	238	118	17188	6691	346135	50135	9295	3 0	..	1500	166 68 15 4
13	424	171	27087	9978	610822	97498	9650	3 0	..	2545	900 95 5 1
14	59	15	3745	797	77735	13110	1269	3 0	..	285	81 11 18 0
15	87	35	6376	1721	136401	24472	3446	3 0	..	30	170 21 12 6
16	25	..	1798	..	40620	7734	1157	3 1½	..	20	49 6 13 8
17	20	7	1219	684	32794	5471	878	3 0	..	40	38 4 8 4
	1251	431	82573	26499	1750151	286129	35767	..	..	5297	2158 275 18 0
18	..	11	..	419	2450	137	105	..	..	..	0 10 0
	1251	442	82573	26918	1752601	286266	35872	..	..	5297	2158 276 8 0
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	5	2	218	118	6563	1120	97	3 4	..	1	10 0 19 5
3	222	148	15448	9144	379031	59484	12199	3 2	..	1502	362 70 0 0
4	2	..	145	..	4143	650	64	3 2	..	..	5 0 15 2
5	..	..	400	..	13817	3372	252	..	..	..	..
6	127	36	7779	2423	156728	25502	2413	3 0	..	337	238 25 19 6
7	2	..	127	..	2713	542	39	4 0	..	..	1 0 8 6
8	54	28	3613	1819	91326	14748	1791	3 0	..	..	35 12 14 4
9	4	3	328	220	9991	1720	92	3 4	..	27	1

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ROCHDALE DISTRICT—Con.									
Milnrow	283	2825	545	221	692	904	1275	1077	89
Conservative ..	827	6427	322	543	4428	453	1396	2418	11
New Hey Industrial	432	2370	1252	120	2534	1580	..	676	399
Rochdale Equit. Pioneers	21042	377885	5874	12789	42925	47050	72870	251825	3890
Provident	14320	212204	9163	15779	25000	25612	00611	141382	14
Shawforth	285	2988	174	835	1107	1206	..	1785	350
Small Bridge Conservative	278	5634	..	374	498	371	..	5705	16
Smithy Bridge	207	6457	675	180	642	659	4840	1837	99
Summerseat and Brooks- bottoms	196	3083	2089	261	835	1118	1648	2045	221
Tottington Equitable	406	8711	748	2869	530	2291	327	9976	45
Industrial	1260	24068	3074	1637	3071	0160	3024	17497	523
Wardle	209	6224	651	464	468	4288	..	2801	9
Whitworth	871	13452	010	833	3367	4025	2379	6564	118
Woolfold	730	12678	..	715	1930	1443	6754	4495	..
Total	63450	1154020	36599	77682	159920	173896	204287	723824	8142
No. 15—ROSSENDALE DIST.									
Bacup	3440	88553	11373	7866	10485	14467	10578	72901	5622
Cawl Terrace	845	11839	440	1307	1260	1562	6540	5420	326
Crawshawbooth	774	28610	221	1014	5309	4285	..	20779	1076
Edenfield	329	11435	532	291	924	1429	2445	7770	47
Haslingden	3192	53227	28786	5533	8420	13408	34580	35465	716
Helmshore	414	6762	1887	681	1092	2253	4896	3812	106
Love Clough	366	10273	875	808	2066	885	3314	6155	434
Lumb	123	786	201	36	497	368	..	207	183
Ramsbottom Industrial ..	2760	66189	15864	5735	12342	11973	27724	43834	1335
Rawtenstall Conservative	1055	9203	2603	1333	2397	5266	4728	2057	517
Stacksteads	510	2577	2010	419	2136	2239	736	536	523
Tunstead	363	3275	503	10	1258	810	439	873	609
Turn	85	1375	..	95	224	154	430	797	11
Water Peace and Safety ..	191	2446	309	120	1136	523	..	1414	152
Waterfoot	630	6740	4037	126	2564	4508	920	3017	374
Whitewell Bottom	388	4701	..	450	1465	1032	500	2116	309
Total	15474	310991	70241	25824	54415	65162	97830	207243	12380
No. 16—SOUTH YORKSHIRE DISTRICT—									
Bakewell	345	777	167	3	817	..	..	383	173
Barnsley	42688	633690	6333	10901	159021	208452	145897	238472	9033
Brightside and Carbrook.	29665	303607	19474	15960	89673	109066	46191	161733	6651
Chesterfield	3280	19398	13291	1957	11235	6661	13950	5635	1209
Clown	1239	16384	3073	1022	5008	4369	9236	3227	255
Colnborough	405	1388	..	679	1328	9	..	1482	62
Denaby Main	817	23753	547	4939	3534	2100	5536	20953	449
Doncaster	15747	163116	6366	10334	45981	91528	27947	30505	2373
Eckington	345	2375	..	384	954	538	672	994	250
Goole	3000	20039	..	3628	7347	10002	..	7942	416
Handsworth Woodhouse.	1628	17912	931	2282	7501	7672	2406	5533	1350
Hasland	896	6330	1129	410	3290	2533	342	2936	605
Heath and Williamthorpe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killamarsh	756	9796	1050	1099	3728	1965	2041	4611	589
Kilnhurst	878	14727	1119	1661	3161	1319	3134	12058	78
Masbro'	10602	161467	4657	10713	35520	64417	29468	61612	7608
Matlock Bank	847	4433	543	574	3265	2260	..	1101	559

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	£					£	£	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charit- able Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
10	4	300	..	7507	1590	108	4 0	..	..	1	1 10 0
11	10	666	..	23809	4752	252	4 0	..	..	67	..
12	11	808	..	17265	2584	115	4 0	..	..	5	2 6 8
13	280	135	14930	6940	816726	56544	10877	3 4	374	147	108 1 0
14	195	69	12967	4070	241553	48279	8141	3 4	..	164	..
15	4	..	283	..	7692	1260	123	3 4	..	2	1 9 2
16	..	..	196	..	7385	1920	169	..	..	..	..
17	2	..	206	..	6298	1257	252	3 6	..	5	1 0 2
18	4	2	256	73	86146	1028	99	3 4	..	1	0 19 7
19	5	..	369	..	12465	2952	301	3 6 1/2	..	59	2 1 8
20	20	7	1486	425	30793	5676	963	3 2	..	100	9
21	2	..	161	..	6680	1415	251	3 11 1/2	..	10	1 2 6
22	13	10	992	700	27259	4542	555	3 0	..	62	4 8 10
23	11	..	898	..	20064	3720	507	3 4	..	84	3 12 9
977		440	62576	25932	1401354	244747	39660	..	..	2487	1195 237 9 3
1	73	40	3488	2409	883641	15235	2502	3 4	..	199	52 17 16 4
2	11	3	915	233	25054	3688	519	2 8	..	45	13
3	19	7	976	370	27354	6270	1120	4 0	..	..	6 3 19 0
4	4	5	304	265	9759	1879	471	3 0	..	..	44 1 14 7
5	56	33	4030	2122	88386	15002	2173	3 0	..	319	52 15 18 5
6	6	..	456	..	13345	2224	356	3 6	..	..	29 2 2 1
7	5	..	499	..	12454	2952	388	4 0	..	38	12 1 17 5
8	3	..	155	..	4157	612	41	2 0	..	..	0 13 6
9	51	40	3338	1569	867103	12724	1566	3 0	..	200	61 13 11 8
10	18	5	888	281	819896	4756	360	3 3	..	..	10
11	8	2	616	161	12233	1914	101	3 2	..	..	11 2 12 9
12	8	..	519	..	9212	1363	126	3 4	..	..	3
13	1	..	115	..	2662	527	56	3 6	..	..	0 9 5
14	2	1	215	63	6715	806	133	2 0	..	..	6 1 0 0
15	8	2	803	132	17946	1429	262	1 8	..	..	4 3 5 2
16	6	2	467	111	13194	1331	225	1 8	..	2	7 1 18 9
279		149	17784	7716	413081	72712	10299	..	..	803	311 66 19 1
1	5	..	270	..	4493	294	35	1 0	..	..	1 16 6
2	1046	263	70254	21621	1327564	203354	29746	2 10 1/2	..	1769	2139 206 14 6
3	661	279	45061	12832	770325	104984	13322	2 6	..	440	931 151 1 5
4	57	3	3617	280	75955	10069	816	2 0	..	223	19 15 2 0
5	27	2	1869	164	43671	5428	701	2 3	..	..	4 6 5 6
6	6	..	374	..	8559	1398	58	3 0	..	..	31
7	24	..	1460	..	33130	8550	1165	5 0	..	88	104 4 1 3
8	347	98	17638	8696	397871	50065	5773	2 5 1/2	518	832	207 75 19 9
9	5	..	361	..	8797	1145	108	2 2 1/2	29	..	10 1 13 10
10	67	10	2962	592	65116	8030	860	2 5	..	74	12 15 12 6
11	41	3	2448	109	56733	7964	818	2 6	75	79	18 7 7 4
12	18	..	1303	..	29121	3170	30	2 0	..	..	3 4 11 8
13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	19	..	1446	..	27859	3661	462	2 2 1/2	..	66	26 3 16 1
15	15	1	928	113	32261	5907	679	3 3	..	28	52 4 7 0
16	323	47	10787	2257	196260	29090	4040	2 6	17	202	51 53 17 8
17	20	3	970	180	16558	1855	194	2 0	..	21	30

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Property.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
SOUTH YORKSHIRE DIST.—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Con.—									
Oughtibridge	486	3612	..	551	1375	1451	..	2320	642
Oxeroft	238	1267	235	334	1420	639	..	378	250
Pillsley	795	5738	..	755	3401	2294	1450	2245	1092
Pontefract	8500	38749	..	6031	16194	11316	1123	25756	572
Sheffield and Ecclesall...	20737	132490	13776	10400	62084	60322	12890	52817	1003
Staveley Town	1246	18118	..	1392	5959	4769	4475	7224	1312
Stocksbridge	2526	43583	158	2302	10412	11345	16332	14215	59
Tideswell	163	752	..	7	443	32	..	313	72
Worksop	3783	77177	1398	3445	12025	17819	37348	23745	2827
	151668	1720663	74247	91832	495876	623427	369538	688280	40098
Productive Societies—									
Sheffield Cutlery	50	1397	150	729	1626	..	..	659	133
„ Fed'd Cutlers.	81	355	134	6	521	..	..	13	229
„ Trade Union									
„ Sheep Shear Manufg...	66	1750	1682	6200	4013	7529	..	1329	..
Total	151865	1724165	76213	98767	502036	630956	369538	690281	40460
WHOLESALE SOCIETY—									
Co-op. Wholesale Society	I. 1193	2130959	4170058	II. 1888921	3184060	2200853	9121	2842201	1528741
SPECIAL SOCIETY—									
Co-operative Insurance .	3	20000	..	A 538675	..	26659	86743	472678	9334
ISLE OF MAN—									
bFoxdale	190	423	..	261	601	140	..	440	459
Laxey Industrial	514	5075	..	104	2028	1188	..	2357	299
„ Old Equitable ...	209	1817	..	272	1125	252	..	558	341
Total	913	7315	..	637	3754	1580	..	3355	1099

A Including Insurance and Sinking Funds. B Including 65 Full-time Agents. C Premiums.
D On Members' Premiums.

I Societies representing 2,336,460 individual members.

II Exclusive of 2,000 ordinary shares of £10 each (paid up) in the Manchester Ship Canal Company; 7,500 shares of £1 each (paid up) in the Gilsland Convalescent Home; 5,000 shares of £1 each (paid up) in the British Cotton-Growing Association; and £8,000 (paid up) in the North-Western Co-operative Convalescent Homes Association.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Donus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
18	9	..	558	..	16971	2219	176	2 10	..	5	2 9 8
19	6	..	452	..	10809	1334	57	2 3	25	6	1 3 5
20	19	..	1165	..	28331	3463	254	2 3	..	20	3 19 2
21	228	22	9204	1300	223494	32950	1348	2 10	..	150	....
22	448	91	25049	5011	429928	58011	5336	2 3	..	150	97 11 2
23	25	..	1394	..	43866	6347	719	2 6	..	36	6 7 7
24	59	19	3791	1095	73922	9946	2177	2 0½	..	88	12 12 6
25	3	..	158	..	4021	405	30	1 8	..	..	....
26	87	13	4960	1095	118600	16041	3344	2 0½	..	53	17 17 0
	3565	854	208479	55405	4044215	580680	72248	..	664	4102	4428 694 7 6
27	..	40	..	770	1718	160	69	..	..	..	0 10 0
28	..	30	..	950	1632	60	15	..	..	..	0 10 0
29	..	..	..	5241	11076	1121	..	..	..	..	....
	3565	924	208479	62366	4058641	582021	72332	..	664	4102	4428 695 7 6
1	3199	III. 19091	329467	III. 1209887	34910813	944936	104867	0 5	..	24	16813 590 0 0
1	B 257	..	23796	..	C 266265	9984	537	D 2 0	..	..	.. 25 0 0
1	4	2	185	85	4111	434	25	2 0	..	..	....
2	12	5	685	239	15193	2016	238	2 11½	..	..	10
3	6	2	359	91	5529	618	90	2 8½	..	..	....
	22	9	1229	415	24833	3068	353	..	..	..	10

k 32 Weeks.

III Including Purchasing Depôts, Shipping Departments, Creameries, Building Departments, &c.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	House Prop-erty.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—AIREDALE.....	49	130586	2278908	120948	123898	504409	841350	472941	898107	42790
„ 2—BOLTON.....	34	100557	1949048	180524	111914	810459	494150	650715	931863	16039
„ 3—CALDERDALE.....	29	44177	926525	64454	55425	248466	269371	199728	407077	59395
„ 4—CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES ..	49	109016	751285	145628	101904	272651	496413	108327	262899	13730
„ 5—DEWSBURY.....	28	65272	1173964	49981	44972	199563	303763	274727	612495	25092
„ 6—EAST YORKSHIRE ..	17	47170	360531	39256	22386	119480	193689	17065	162932	13645
„ 7—HUDDERSFIELD	45	45567	669865	118433	39644	194940	238507	109230	375282	45572
„ 8—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE AND DIST.	26	69126	819034	124906	68091	223508	301613	189060	355826	64306
„ 9—MANCHESTER.....	36	142479	2271872	233246	124642	399315	732960	666406	1022901	62059
„ 10—NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.....	36	89745	1741363	339759	68352	323301	563830	878046	513541	28044
„ 11—NORTH LANCASHIRE	15	57630	744558	66103	42689	146255	222674	242665	315661	9099
„ 12—NORTH LONSDALE..	17	27213	375453	10497	21623	107280	127149	48424	154870	11436
„ 13—OLDHAM.....	18	55889	940795	138307	72483	167862	232016	434228	889191	5474
„ 14—ROCHDALE.....	28	63450	1154029	36599	77682	159920	173896	294287	723824	8142
„ 15—ROSSENDALE.....	16	15474	310991	70241	25824	54415	65162	97830	207243	12380
„ 16—SOUTH YORKSHIRE..	29	151865	1724165	76213	98767	502036	630956	369538	690231	40460
WHOLESALE SOCIETY.....	1	1193	2130959	4170058	1833921	3184060	2200853	9121	2842201	1523741
CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE..	1	3	20000	..	538675	..	26659	66743	472678	9334
ISLE OF MAN.....	3	913	7315	..	637	3754	1580	..	3355	1099
Totals, 1914.....	466	1217325	20343590	5994148	3524360	7210674	8116591	5149076	11342327	1992737
Totals, 1913.....	466	1161848	19633215	6019786	3069871	6787643	7731724	4976784	11312703	1492215
Increase.....	..	55982	710375	..	454498	429031	334867	172292	29524	500522
Decrease.....	..	..	..	25638	..	..	..	..	..	..

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	3204	1540	188061	89501	3666228	570383	74341	35	2893	3388	657 6 1
2	2432	894	162183	59413	8137146	528940	69378	7	7106	3047	509 15 11
3	793	887	53224	57549	2099403	258096	36842	843	1276	1116	228 16 0
4	2429	498	145521	33623	2547501	358841	28694	393	3399	2357	484 9 1
5	1229	533	77424	80235	1841413	332612	42066	..	3947	2266	317 0 2
6	997	308	59102	17090	1089961	155841	16189	1171	1839	895	201 17 1
7	846	606	56385	42965	1682372	254666	26137	183	991	1711	208 14 3
8	1502	760	87286	45740	1966041	301811	29328	495	2428	2736	334 8 8
9	3436	1899	205992	127538	4043625	668184	86064	1961	5919	5123	662 13 11
10	1809	1384	123161	90459	2869507	469099	69909	688	6091	2505	443 16 1
11	988	407	51936	28075	1109658	150668	24733	8	1919	1373	286 14 10
12	665	187	39200	12850	803928	123381	15773	3	302	681	132 19 0
13	1251	442	82573	26918	1752601	286266	35872	..	5297	2158	276 8 0
14	977	440	62576	25932	1401354	244747	39660	..	2487	1195	237 9 3
15	279	149	17784	7716	413081	72712	10299	..	803	311	66 19 1
16	3565	924	208479	62366	4058641	582021	72332	664	4102	4428	695 7 6
17	3199	19991	329467	1209887	34910813	944936	104867	..	24	16813	590 0 0
18	257	..	23796	..	266265	9984	537	..	..	..	25 0 0
19	22	9	1229	415	28433	3068	353	..	..	10	..
	29880	31858	1975379	1968272	69684371	6316256	783374	6451	50853	52113	6359 14 11
	29756	29805	1884185	1824463	65525025	6058914	771540	7706	50222	23560	6098 11 4
	124	2053	91194	143809	4159346	257342	11894	..	631	28553	261 3 7
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1255	..	..	..

SCOTTISH

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of ABER-
DUMFRIES, EDINBURGH, ELOIN, FIFE, FORFAR, HADDINGTON, INVERNESS,
ROXBURGH, SELKIRK, and STIRLING; for 1914,

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1.—AYRSHIRE DIST.—									
Ardrossan	1426	10650	6054	2041	4323	8518	..	4514	3880
Auchinleck	858	12914	4949	897	4193	5959	600	8233	1591
Beith	773	12943	7980	1803	2529	3815	1635	14898	1080
Campbeltown	495	4790	181	354	1946	918	1950	486	592
Carrick (Maybole)	778	9490	1598	822	2635	3783	446	5009	1070
Carronbridge	196	963	129	172	562	..	..	930	141
Catrine	756	12563	112	977	2372	3057	4268	4982	869
Creetown	95	298	220	134	154	422	..	361	37
Crosshouse (Kilmarnock) ..	790	17029	499	1185	2678	6208	..	10366	989
Dalbeattie	149	504	155	113	328	407	..	355	54
Dalmellington	444	8343	84	586	2268	3001	..	4950	1142
Dalry	570	8048	1094	425	2213	3934	..	4338	480
Darvel	1044	32853	4053	2117	3980	9121	3857	23593	1556
Dreghorn (Irvine)	691	20243	93	739	2550	3482	4412	11848	92
Dumfries & Maxwelltown ..	2446	28062	6044	1674	7224	1525	6385	25079	3856
Fergushill	170	2619	83	275	530	340	..	2421	68
Galston	1240	36930	1952	2826	3609	10614	2636	25309	2083
Glenbuck	109	2348	25	200	199	..	..	2640	..
Hurlford	959	17493	1006	1162	2984	8870	..	9559	701
Irvine and Fullarton	1005	15244	3877	1357	3202	4047	700	13846	40
Kilbirnie	1625	32574	2884	4378	5796	11719	5247	17020	2888
Kilmarnock Equitable ..	9727	176944	1481	9278	26030	57022	26709	86821	1387
Kilwinning	1094	27353	..	1727	4357	9344	5329	11454	940
Kirkconnel	142	1408	238	102	424	778	..	501	344
Largs	110	366	700	112	342	1	387	366	181
Manchline	574	14904	482	690	1799	811	3752	9549	1421
b Millport	100	917	..	47	186	19	..	1007	..
Muirkirk	679	11904	4598	1254	2250	2880	760	12555	839
New Cumnock	639	8531	1136	495	3391	4167	1060	2078	471
Newmilns	1153	29761	10743	1431	5771	9812	2816	24858	2985
Old Cumnock	506	5805	785	467	970	1858	..	4969	241
Patna	362	7689	98	723	1267	1485	..	5814	870
Stevenston	1250	20370	13866	1977	3700	6045	4967	23807	..
Troon	1055	20747	2781	1049	3817	9421	..	12403	878
Wigtown	163	1211	350	51	788	552	..	491	259
Total	34173	615801	80990	43640	111367	193035	77916	388019	33980

SECTION.

DEEN, ARGYLE, AYR, BANFF, BUTE, CAITHNESS, CLACKMANNAN, DUMBARTON, KINCARDINE, KINROSS, LANARK, LINLITHGOW, PEEBLES, PERTH, RENFREW, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.		Net Profit.	In-terest on Share Capital	Average Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	45	13	2114	1071	49608	8092	449	3 0	..	41	235	6 13 9
2	25	27	1588	1636	41464	7405	573	3 3	..	88	4 3 4	
3	22	7	1132	584	29034	4875	494	2 11	..	58	33	3 18 9
4	12	12	537	774	13778	1601	220	2 4	..	13	22	2 7 6
5	30	12	1563	980	29238	4452	422	2 8	..	48	22	3 16 10
6	4	..	195	..	4230	610	46	2 9½	..	1	..	..
7	14	8	674	540	16806	3236	507	2 11½	..	18	25	3 17 1
8	2	..	174	..	3241	512	15	3 0	..	..	5	0 10 0
9	19	19	1113	1437	32685	5809	466	3 2	..	69	58	3 17 3
10	4	..	143	..	3406	500	24	2 9	..	..	5	..
11	14	6	827	433	24505	3876	325	3 0	..	12	20	2 2 0
12	18	8	1127	560	22810	3583	272	2 8	..	22	30	3 0 7
13	30	18	1938	1318	39975	7236	951	3 0½	..	32	70	5 10 2
14	20	15	1213	1021	31545	5421	734	2 11½	..	58	60	3 11 4
15	84	24	5787	2111	81780	15134	1257	3 5	..	10	38	12 14 11
16	7	3	268	157	8819	1413	122	3 0	..	2	5	0 16 6
17	43	29	2739	2232	60360	10626	1308	3 0½	..	..	106	6 9 8
18	2	..	109	..	5870	1083	106	3 4	..	..	..	0 11 3
19	24	25	1659	1651	43536	7510	705	3 1	..	15	103	4 16 7
20	35	17	1868	1394	46348	6864	201	3 0	..	168	152	4 15 5
21	77	38	4812	2258	83830	13646	1077	3 0½	..	79	96	8 6 9
22	372	129	12908	10651	293433	40146	5716	2 1½	..	690	988	46 16 9
23	41	22	2317	1596	54941	9276	1181	2 11½	..	60	135	5 2 1
24	4	..	188	..	6356	834	43	2 11½	..	..	3	..
25	3	..	106	..	2064	228	18	1 10½	6	..	..	..
26	10	7	438	334	14531	3005	534	3 2	..	12	54	2 19 11
27	..	..	149	..	1987	200	49	..	..	..	..	..
28	23	12	1458	928	35705	6226	464	3 2	..	28	55	3 7 9
29	22	24	1086	1274	25720	4154	357	2 11	..	39	4	3 2 0
30	33	31	2065	1697	45786	7931	1033	3 0	..	..	86	5 19 2
31	11	1	944	15	19579	3512	233	3 6	..	..	10	..
32	13	4	786	305	21279	3716	345	3 2	..	..	12	..
33	37	19	1921	1463	54406	8423	765	3 0	..	44	128	5 17 8
34	40	16	1825	1619	41541	9585	943	3 0	..	48	30	5 0 0
35	6	..	318	..	4475	587	52	2 6	22	..	9	0 13 0
	1146	546	56109	40039	1294671	211307	22097	..	28	1566	2688	160 18 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 2—BORDER COUNTIES DISTRICT—									
aEarlston	280	1438	560	100					1
Galashiels United.....	2280	42766	6171	3869	12335	25153	1150	20466	5380
Hawick	4415	63002	7438	6370	21727	16889	5304	43896	6549
Innerleithen	556	8010	2032	1624	3109	2475	1704	7046	803
Jedburgh	352	3479	1097	13	1298	2698		1344	1304
Kelso	454	2494	900	117	831	446	1377	2107	
Langholm	594	4827	1390	489	2467	2404		3687	738
Peebles	865	18101	2130	2187	5759	8217		10840	1736
Riccarton Junction	70	636		35	351			391	203
Selkirk	1215	23831	5616	2337	6402	11166	1750	15929	2172
Walkerburn	328	6425	3118	1323	3399	1938	1317	5348	1160
Total	11380	176509	30452	18404	57768	71381	12662	111114	20105
No. 3—CENTRAL DIST.—									
Auchenheath	553	3690	512	650	2512	1470		944	1426
Bellshill and Mossend ...	2249	34743	4338	2379	8875	20415		15518	3838
Blantyre	1763	23054	4077	3097	6604	12526		13338	1853
Burnbank	1700	5676	24363	3266	5515	7005	1700	21465	1241
aCalderbank	325	960	5592	1216	1126	1359		4705	608
Carlisle	1110	17635	1656	813	3643	6133		10750	1766
Carstairs Junction	356	1429	4577		2125	1542	700	1622	706
Chapelhall	707	12555	2182	1047	3901	3547		8063	953
Chapelton	90	400		118	186	58		352	65
Clarkston	183	1601	436	143	488	448	300	1105	342
Cleland	610	5298	1526	510	1740	3784		2216	904
Coalburn	933	5516	5522	96	3446	6564		3650	1883
Coatbridge	7171	191921	2418	24902	40724	31366	27267	122228	17416
aCrofthead	979	30419	361	996	4082	3624	8095	23082	
Dalziel (Motherwell)	8865	19084	199337	16776	30178	24327	23219	174509	6009
Darnagail	100	636	150	349	247	79		837	475
Douglas Provident.....	288	2394	776	105	801	2448	400	114	366
" Water	239	3670	627	337	1086	1499		2486	212
Dykehead and Shotts	1783	42989	2606	2678	5797	16147	1437	30224	480
bForth Provident.....	8								20
bGlenboig	290	3688	990	193	1085	2473		3165	
Glengowan	207	602	2027	124	892	508		3011	112
bGlespin	46	388		45	240			320	
Greengairs	111	1178	130	140	575	110		821	300
Hamilton Central	3018	44763	10111	4203	12058	23430		25853	3501
" Palace Colliery	471	3605	5895	598	2023	1150		7992	562
Lanark	1516	33231	2069	883	5603	12771		19574	580
Larkhall	1490	32929	4000	2299	7146	6900		25793	3413
" Victualling	1553	14000	39026	1675	8098	9184		34662	7944
bLaw	356	2609	6442	250	1329	1199		8270	
Leadhills	176	915		362	717	371		206	376
Leavenseat	34	100	143	96	97			294	
Moffat Mills	116	549	2322	222	683	789		1453	417
Newarthill	397	4859	1448	336	1663	1484		3941	427
Newmains & Cambusnethn	1114	17256	886	1377	2525	7861	561	9145	2091
aOvertown	303	7183	353	307	1995	1534	460	4103	601
bPlains	185	2237		101	684	441		2149	
Strathaven	467	3773	9707	851	2041	1680		10601	739
Wanlockhead	296	2629	50	331	737	1100	328	1400	750
Wishaw	3200	57429	4233	6950	9294	19031	3605	38346	4293
Total	45358	637593	351788	80821	182561	236966	63072	639816	66030

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	Inter- est on Share Capital	Average Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.			
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.			
1	9	..	..	6582	650	..	..	..	1	1	1 6 0			
2	83	45	5255	3416	100328	17822	1539	3 31	50	31	11 17 6			
3	124	90	8476	4803	161734	36999	2666	3 10 1	30	252	23 0 5			
4	17	12	1208	636	26044	5423	406	3 9	9	28	2 14 4			
5	8	2	342	104	5561	538	123	1 7	..	..	1 11 3			
6	8	4	421	396	9113	1256	153	2 4	..	..	2 4 7			
7	14	8	1042	597	25161	5158	238	3 11	..	10	3 0 5			
8	39	11	925	379	38205	7195	734	3 7 1	17	70	4 8 0			
9	2	..	128	..	3227	469	28	3 6	..	..	..
10	20	66	1628	3161	56432	8855	1181	3 2 1	28	..	6 6 3			
11	12	12	952	837	22562	4296	255	3 7 1	..	28	1 14 4			
	336	250	20377	14470	454949	88652	7323	..	..	135	436	58 3 1		
1	14	9	878	743	22609	3523	115	3 4	..	4	2 10 7			
2	84	35	5444	2572	111681	17924	1680	2 10 1	80	160	10 18 0			
3	74	24	3969	1943	91479	15762	1005	3 0	115	186	8 5 0			
4	67	26	3755	1273	89532	15350	216	3 0 1	169	302	8 14 8			
5	10	3	601	140	22301	3662	44	3 3	..	21	1 13 10			
6	26	16	1851	1044	50206	8347	618	3 0	13	21	5 7 5			
7	13	10	652	719	16980	2549	60	3 0	..	10	1 15 4			
8	19	8	1171	498	36495	5385	125	3 0	..	115	3 9 9			
9	2	..	97	..	2025	268	13	2 10	..	..	..
10	4	..	222	..	8982	1541	73	3 6	24	..	7			
11	19	12	960	1020	29215	5188	190	3 4 1	4	22	2 19 7			
12	25	22	1855	1632	34878	2950	205	1 6	..	6	2 12 6			
13	368	159	18914	10393	371365	70884	7524	3 3	635	1015	36 8 0			
14	32	18	1987	1253	56378	11291	1184	3 8	48	53	5 2 0			
15	345	185	22406	11202	428820	68779	854	3 0 1	200	1050	43 13 9			
16	3	..	196	..	5420	976	15	3 8 1	..	22	..			
17	8	5	448	327	10803	1262	69	2 5	..	4	1 9 7			
18	8	3	537	255	14907	2489	150	3 2 1	16	9	1 3 4			
19	78	46	4550	3083	114236	23669	1770	3 10	50	112	8 14 2			
20	..	..	..	..	31	1	..	..	..	..	..
21	..	..	1088	..	19047	2764	191	..	..	..	..
22	7	..	448	..	11962	1790	30	3 5	..	7	0 19 4			
23	..	..	103	..	2373	282	12	..	..	..	..
24	3	..	327	20	7284	1433	58	3 9 1	..	7	0 11 8			
25	112	43	5482	3126	135476	22892	1928	3 0	211	200	14 10 7			
26	16	1	1034	97	31102	6539	340	4 0	..	89	2 10 0			
27	44	21	2127	1632	61718	11078	1384	3 1 1	235	88	7 15 11			
28	42	36	2784	1731	75749	14903	1696	3 4	60	139	7 13 10			
29	52	52	3674	2938	97666	20190	235	3 10	87	181	..			
30	..	..	872	..	20118	3298	100	..	..	..	..
31	4	..	220	..	8250	1222	40	3 6	..	1	..			
32	1	..	91	..	1366	188	4	3 0	..	13	0 4 6			
33	3	..	196	..	7238	1254	117	3 3 1	..	9	0 13 9			
34	15	3	816	150	17758	2947	271	3 1	..	43	2 1 5			
35	41	25	2540	1814	57883	10789	714	3 6	38	31	5 11 1			
36	12	..	834	..	17676	2976	298	3 6	..	18	1 11 3			
37	..	..	212	..	9341	1809	70	..	..	..	..
38	13	5	847	110	15503	2875	452	2 9 1	7	52	2 4 6			
39	6	..	379	..	8192	994	149	2 4	..	..	..
40	109	85	5476	4704	139822	27089	2421	3 5 1	178	262	16 2 11			
	1679	853	100043	54428	2263867	399112	26420	..	24	2146	4259	207 8 3		

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
CENTRAL DISTRICT— <i>Con.</i> Productive Societies— Chapelhall Fed. Baking.. Hamilton Baking	<i>h7</i> <i>h7</i>	1029 7022	8903 31591	836 2187	1326 4080	4200 9783	276 743	6201 26689	259 62	41 42
Total	45372	645044	392282	83844	187067	250949	64091	672706	66360	
No. 4—EAST OF SCOTLAND DISTRICT—										
Armadales	1338	39128	968	4059	5114	6288	4330	31791	1332	1
Bathgate	3336	68943	20	1975	11847	17277	7786	32969	3598	2
Broxburn	1781	18479	4665	1875	7686	10540	1955	4654	4475	3
Dalkeith	1086	18488	142	1274	3577	6818	..	13498	2028	4
Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's	45264	734763	36878	197273	150749	174375	107281	710826	41603	5
Gavieside	70	1020	40	278	375	..	..	978	253	0
Gorebridge	1550	33321	1146	2550	7048	7285	1500	22042	3380	7
Haddington	1241	13801	2203	2550	3940	7773	2220	8387	956	8
Hillwood	1458	17394	5213	2880	5316	10807	4010	10531	3185	9
Juniper Green	807	16718	..	3475	3566	5278	..	13803	1465	10
Leith	7326	90055	24220	7080	28444	43273	32798	40378	5845	11
Musselburgh & Fisherrow	4010	81517	9789	19627	19808	36366	317	60426	15110	12
Penicuik	2128	45097	3449	5035	9876	19450	5222	25735	4397	13
Portobello	1119	17476	3212	1416	4816	9332	6000	6676	1872	14
Prestonpans	870	6857	1318	3552	3150	5387	671	6295	2019	15
Rosewell	378	526	..	770	1635	25	..	1955	75	16
bSpringfield	48	548	..	26	160	14	..	403	..	17
Tranent	2810	47548	7052	13121	20130	36079	1849	17787	4692	18
West Barns	486	..	287	..	777	779	..	149	31	19
West Benhar	1604	36575	507	1118	6375	7155	3795	24704	843	20
West Calder	5948	130638	5513	18962	26495	26758	6266	102630	10094	21
Productive Society— Edinburgh Printing	84659 154	1418892 10000	106632 7904	288896 3000	326884 511	431249 14012	186001 1500	1137577 846	107183 4585	
Total	84813	1428892	114536	291896	327395	445261	187501	1138423	111768	
No. 5—FALKIRK DIST.—										
Banton	63	483	15	69	185	128	..	322	98	1
Bo'ness	1731	29998	6525	2279	9542	2545	17820	10050	2292	2
Bonnybridge	1130	20758	3524	1683	5267	7012	3367	12761	530	3
Camelon	1483	24536	6821	2431	7938	15411	4173	9886	2517	4
Carron	459	6077	3823	699	2031	2683	635	4573	1533	5
bCarronhall and Kinnaird.	142	1657	136	40	1188	32	..	1636	..	6
Condorrat	280	2066	57	370	773	276	..	1867	338	7
Cumbernauld	312	2518	77	352	794	580	540	1605	112	8
Denny and Dunipace ...	1037	22392	2265	2216	5177	4031	4364	15462	830	9
Grahamston & Bainsford	3013	44914	5500	3424	13682	19674	2921	22846	1312	10
Grangemouth	1432	35916	2146	2906	5487	12508	1950	20235	3405	11
Kilsyth	1462	11511	3402	687	6566	7731	..	4661	875	12
Larbert	705	16272	1333	777	3411	3348	3201	9945	146	13
Laurieston	339	6341	123	251	1382	996	300	4362	672	14
Longcroft	842	10119	2824	822	2856	3470	1201	6856	1180	15
Redding	3025	96498	787	4876	8554	1671	1120	96938	8725	16
Skinflats	213	10617	101	408	494	607	..	10219	409	17
Slamannan	981	2433	18881	1725	6045	443	..	18002	1335	18
Stenhousemuir Equitable	938	17654	326	1025	2348	6568	469	10774	509	19
Total	19587	362760	58666	27040	83720	89714	42061	263000	26818	

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
41	..	30	..	2736	27060	5436	53	4 0½	..	..	34	..
42	..	76	..	5709	52687	5251	313	2 1½	..	..	80	2 0 0
	1679	959	100043	62873	2343614	409799	26786	..	24	2146	4373	209 8 3
1	46	29	2946	2197	82365	18178	1207	3 11½	..	84	140	6 11 8
2	87	56	5583	3629	150765	30977	2053	3 11½	..	79	145	16 13 4
3	69	35	3884	2395	79165	15320	647	3 10½	..	40	88	8 1 4
4	31	20	1597	1469	40536	7090	747	3 3	..	..	21	5 4 0
5	1821	1023	99971	66580	1767989	423164	24180	4 4	..	753	1165	228 2 11
6	2	..	128	..	3212	607	36	4 0	..	..	..	0 6 11
7	55	44	2960	2862	84022	19117	1034	4 4	..	..	84	7 6 0
8	31	25	1796	1411	45264	8559	540	3 7	..	..	114	6 8 4
9	65	17	3032	1750	62565	14431	596	4 0	..	..	..	..
10	32	18	2154	1420	38776	8101	648	3 10	..	10	25	4 3 0
11	292	134	15754	8584	270696	55816	4378	4 0	..	100	150	37 9 6
12	174	100	11916	7511	251521	54930	2612	4 2½	..	66	299	20 10 0
13	86	54	4580	3199	105806	22553	1626	3 11½	..	..	35	11 0 0
14	45	25	2397	1643	49489	10212	628	4 0	..	..	26	5 14 7
15	29	9	1725	876	41258	9022	217	4 3	..	..	44	4 3 4
16	9	3	800	254	19393	3637	23	4 0	..	..	84	..
17	..	..	138	..	3317	593	..	..	..	..	..	..
18	94	74	5414	4156	141881	29762	1462	4 2	..	34	165	14 8 6
19	9	3	403	188	6405	856	..	2 5	..	..	..	..
20	53	24	3003	2173	92344	19554	1592	3 11	..	..	68	8 6 6
21	229	110	14476	7229	315872	73776	4570	3 11½	..	170	535	31 16 8
	3250	1803	184657	119526	2652641	826255	48886	..	..	1336	3188	416 6 7
22	..	78	..	6470	11704	590	550	..	74	..	19	1 5 0
	3250	1881	184657	125996	3664345	826845	49436	..	74	1336	3207	417 11 7
1	1	..	80	..	2664	540	23	3 9½	..	..	1	0 6 5
2	44	48	3289	2826	73501	14048	1157	3 6½	..	8	20	8 10 1
3	55	25	2981	1803	68437	11978	964	3 2½	..	76	96	5 14 2
4	70	40	3508	2379	73146	11731	850	2 8½	..	54	113	7 5 7
5	13	13	683	873	22940	3793	213	3 2	..	..	40	2 4 11
6	..	..	157	..	5931	1333	30	..	..	..	..	..
7	7	..	317	..	17143	3265	72	4 0	..	..	32	1 10 2
8	6	..	352	..	14689	2560	94	3 4½	..	17	8	1 11 11
9	43	20	2739	1580	64548	10694	1028	2 11½	..	..	122	5 4 10
10	103	60	6523	2383	125077	17279	1709	2 8½	..	80	161	15 8 4
11	45	37	2576	2822	58601	10161	1200	3 0½	..	38	38	7 8 3
12	47	29	2085	1943	74372	14256	480	3 11½	..	..	89	7 4 3
13	21	13	1110	921	34320	5342	648	3 0	..	..	68	3 8 0
14	9	2	454	124	16140	2712	230	3 0	..	..	11	..
15	21	11	1101	917	39630	7660	464	3 8½	..	..	64	5 3 6
16	83	26	5094	2502	178644	45763	3133	4 5	..	13	80	..
17	4	..	311	10337	1740	513	3 3½	..	..	..	17	1 1 9
18	30	21	2218	1532	47926	9244	114	3 10	..	9	76	5 4 2
19	38	19	2028	805	42310	6547	664	2 10½	..	44	30	4 12 9
	640	364	37606	23410	970356	180646	13676	..	..	330	1066	82 8 1

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
FALEIRK DISTRICT—Con.									
Productive Societies—									
Bainsford & Grahamston									
Baking	3652	34470	500	1000	1570	11068	4202	22074	903
bCarronshore Baking.....	308	2340	10	10	159	1314	1265	1265	21
Stenhousemuir Baking...	940	9218	154	220	1050	4046	1065	3714	22
Total	24487	408806	59416	20176	86490	106172	47328	290053	28257
No. 6—FIFE AND KINROSS DISTRICT—									
Auchtermuchty	521	3970	343	335	1910	1041	1550	1628	1
Buckhaven	2117	38289	1337	2730	7949	24623	370	12356	2091
Burntisland	651	11868	1818	1077	2008	1942	5000	6735	967
Coaltown of Wemyss....	263	7678	391	272	998	2555	4721	343	4
Cowdenbeath	1714	38614	830	3626	7312	16899	1300	22557	5
Cupar (Fife)	416	3009	850	275	1264	2237	1276	375	6
Dunfermline	9013	133515	22617	48010	48968	77614	77614	7	7
Dysart	1467	22424	780	1861	3853	9342	250	17190	1089
East Wemyss	845	20507	61	502	2810	3244	2265	14478	1330
cEdenvalle	111	654	140	542	400	429	429	10	10
bFalkland	111	654	140	542	400	429	429	11	11
cFreuchie Equitable	502	1459	1628	478	1817	2617	869	743	13
Gallatown	653	6449	50	950	2310	1860	5652	645	14
Guardbridge	2203	54140	519	4974	12364	16158	34752	2560	15
Keilly	336	1191	397	230	577	201	1681	77	16
Kettle	180	2453	423	226	888	1103	1317	167	17
Kingseat	315	1708	72	149	1480	748	459	333	18
Kinross and Vicinity ...	229	3633	150	191	1480	128	2888	231	19
Lassodie	266	4560	395	864	277	4633	4633	20	20
Leslie	1161	26667	179	1484	4694	5085	3000	22843	21
and District	1981	34892	2015	1148	7852	22402	2140	14879	2272
Leven (Reform)	3407	72182	996	7531	13487	20814	1416	46285	9764
Lochgelly	1810	42332	270	1355	13595	15506	24201	1745	24
Markinch	905	18880	3981	555	6140	11722	4652	4092	1993
Methill	223	2002	1142	262	640	65	1309	1735	127
Newburgh and District .	4489	66279	2196	4761	13084	35047	3750	37283	27
Pathhead & Sinclairtown	390	2315	134	333	1043	289	1865	383	28
St. Andrews	700	8982	205	1145	1798	4506	1332	2355	633
Townhill	290	9595	20	500	676	903	700	7972	426
West Wemyss.....	37158	640056	20787	60102	161445	251582	27464	374577	30531
Productive Societies :—									
bBurntisland Bread	272	1384	40	210	101	602	789	105	31
Kettle Baking	537	1599	25	52	118	136	632	1164	32
Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	335	660	100	128	337	536	7	33	33
Total	38302	643699	20827	60412	161792	253139	27464	377442	30643
No. 7—GLASGOW & SUBS.—									
Anniesland	592	12684	2430	994	2011	5174	8926	1066	1
Avonbank (Rutherglen) .	2330	32161	1997	1888	2418	13497	22453	2020	2
bBlairdardie	78	624	25	52	102	136	632	1164	3
Bridgeton Old Victualling	1233	3099	4249	4230	311	3000	2864	3320	4
Cadder	465	3230	79	480	1985	160	1662	1164	5

1914, SCOTTISH SECTION.

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	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
20	..	85	..	6407	54208	10856	1254	3 9½	..	50	100	10 0 0
21	..	..	..	422	3468	841	61	..	..	..	..	..
22	..	18	..	1437	13545	2514	355	3 3	..	51	29	5 10 0
	640	467	37606	31676	1041577	104857	15346	..	..	440	1204	97 18 1
1	16	4	663	277	13424	1907	226	2 8½	..	15	8	2 5 1
2	50	42	3356	3092	86140	15594	1278	4 6	..	71	81	10 6 0
3	15	9	1111	444	20226	3491	400	3 5	..	31	75	3 9 0
4	6	2	374	190	10523	2625	294	3 9	..	..	..	1 6 0
5	65	42	4021	2492	92093	19452	1766	3 11½	..	84	88	8 9 8
6	10	3	286	248	8130	1336	93	3 2	..	7	2	2 6 10
7	299	175	16260	13034	355187	71420	5134	3 9	..	468	230	45 0 0
8	46	23	2556	1520	63163	13712	875	4 4	..	50	27	7 2 6
9	25	25	918	1528	41044	7982	478	4 6	..	..	26	3 15 2
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11	..	..	233	..	3034	585	30	..	..	..	..	..
12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	..	..	714	..	12836	2319	73	3 7½	..	..	6	1 17 6
14	16	7	788	493	23325	5113	297	4 0	..	..	16	3 4 7
15	82	58	5052	4101	122363	26133	2300	3 11	..	..	242	10 18 6
16	6	2	278	86	6687	1391	51	3 10	..	..	2	1 13 8
17	5	5	351	266	8648	1541	87	3 6½	..	..	29	0 19 6
18	5	..	196	..	8172	1409	91	3 7	..	..	5	..
19	8	..	498	..	16260	3423	165	4 0	..	19	16	1 4 0
20	3	..	131	..	845386	1377	142	4 10	..	..	10	0 7 0
21	31	17	1157	886	35666	12089	1107	4 6	..	15	24	6 1 6
22	67	51	1720	2660	858284	15461	706	4 2	..	47	14	9 7 6
23	124	68	7436	4933	187311	38346	2129	3 11½	..	188	96	16 0 6
24	71	43	4222	2390	100769	20558	1690	3 11	..	140	..	9 2 3
25	32	27	1113	1412	832108	9105	622	4 6	..	12	17	4 0 6
26	6	..	294	..	5238	931	100	3 2	..	9	7	1 3 4
27	158	77	8642	4072	162374	34949	2879	3 9	..	168	109	21 3 4
28	9	4	252	331	7167	1160	107	3 1	..	18	7	2 0 8
29	23	11	1508	832	33320	6892	428	3 10½	..	65	..	3 4 7
30	7	2	364	201	11892	2306	373	4 0	..	..	7	1 10 0
	1186	697	64494	45489	1570770	322607	23921	..	..	1407	1144	178 17 2
31	..	..	..	380	1925	189	69	..	..	..	..	..
32	..	11	..	684	6005	1073	76	3 6	..	..	10	2 16 6
33	..	4	..	271	1960	348	17	2 8	..	..	3	..
	1186	712	64494	46824	1580660	324217	24083	..	..	1407	1157	181 13 8
1	23	..	1469	..	28808	3674	100	2 4	..	41	18	2 17 3
2	84	..	4678	..	91419	15264	1270	3 0	..	214	159	10 16 2
3	..	..	102	..	3498	456	17	..	..	..	..	..
4	37	11	2375	1044	56277	12544	..	3 11	..	..	17	..
5	22	..	1183	..	25230	3454	121	2 9	..	..	6	2 5 10

s Nine Months.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
GLASGOW & SUBURBS—Con.									
Cambuslang	1924	27377	4063	2482	6002	11807	5591	15200	6
Clydebank	7206	97877	43739	10525	33581	42216	17166	64074	7
Cowlairs	0263	125553	31234	20199	30013	30418	11665	112842	8
Dalmuir	673	4196	11892	296	2834	3025	8025	1815	9
Dumbarton Equitable ..	3585	83328	32108	3646	20167	17237	..	87793	10
Duntocher and Hardgate	346	2136	2394	400	796	2087	..	1446	11
East Kilbride	188	2292	64	507	487	1702	..	1083	12
Gilbertfield	770	6738	9426	1181	2083	6086	..	10454	13
Glasgow—D'py & Furnish.	2991	58098	83671	9579	36785	70353	..	44841	14
" Eastern	9089	50697	53219	2486	24622	4945	26961	59006	15
" Kinning Park ..	20089	224726	58161	27957	57989	88278	..	202723	16
" London Road ..	2655	4098	10663	1549	3069	509	3768	10348	17
" Progress	3426	39361	4286	1098	7270	1911	..	35552	18
" St. George	16100	40600	178516	21038	50700	79678	..	117778	19
" St. Rollox	4686	26703	13780	4226	7104	17420	..	28214	20
Kirkintilloch	1785	34064	280	2499	5487	10731	4944	17875	21
Lennox (Dumbarton) ..	2219	21672	5687	1260	9237	12546	1540	5494	22
Lennoxtown	428	4064	2114	63	1215	2557	740	3012	23
Milngavie	731	9089	560	829	1978	3355	..	5358	24
Newton	315	3646	1814	447	582	2084	..	3681	25
Rutherforden Vict'g & Bkg.	367	306	1250	269	413	1227	..	2307	26
Shettleston	6603	49622	40358	7661	15238	6422	18304	66551	27
Stonefield	400	3361	1142	1084	1936	2602	..	1162	28
Tollcross	1362	5100	24332	1830	5014	9000	7000	12417	29
Uddingston	1930	7052	35870	3344	7251	7916	3653	27638	30
Vale of Leven (Alexand'rs)	4557	95114	5358	10196	22391	23296	19260	56243	31
Special Society—	108478	1084208	661121	144314	371080	480186	132218	1035044	78940
Scottish Guild of Handi- craft	22	430	2051	..	1046	96	..	1331	32
Productive Societies—	108500	1084638	663172	144314	372126	480282	132218	1036375	78940
Glasgow—Civic Press	200	1834	536	1650	168	1075	..	1692	33
" Scottish Newspr	68	209	121	200	..	..	..	1159	34
" United Baking..	4207	206363	270820	86276	48605	238172	7178	276512	35
Total	108975	1293044	9346492	32440	420899	719529	139396	1315738	99698
No. 8—PERTH, FORFAR, & ABERDEEN DISTRICT—									
Aberdeen Northern	17698	159310	17303	15199	100458	125386	..	53988	1069
Aberthaven	73	110	..	37	87	..	..	498	45
Arbroath Equitable	1581	19904	..	1424	5153	7051	1490	10139	1529
" Friendly Coal ..	2507	2379	..	900	354	1008	390	26	2185
" High Street ..	1770	17713	5612	566	8145	12741	4000	3323	2134
" West Port	1937	14983	..	124	6400	5772	4485	2367	1034
Auchterarder Feus	265	4272	..	162	1077	860	832	1516	342
" Provident	228	1711	300	81	803	483	..	1256	397
Blairgowrie	341	1213	504	241	661	1067	..	716	424
Brechin United	3259	40840	1025	1240	10389	11256	6219	18272	44006
Buckie	531	..	129	..	539	148	..	170	24
Carnoustie Association ..	845	5126	3284	250	2828	3058	200	2134	671
" Equitable ...	518	1433	2555	78	1007	3577	..	179	1385
Crieff	218	809	32	34	384	..	..	340	266

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonos on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s d.
6	65	34	3819	1538	84219	14477	1116	3 0	..	85	96	9 12 0
7	388	82	20922	5412	332130	49598	4247	2 5 1	..	789	351	35 3 6
8	647	91	24927	7105	410982	66624	5637	3 0	..	1285	610	47 1 0
9	44	4	1580	140	29533	3572	140	2 5	..	21	21	3 4 8
10	164	74	8345	3855	149002	25814	3373	2 11 1	..	223	191	17 6 4
11	13	4	736	356	17312	2886	135	2 11 1	..	5	17	1 10 10
12	5	..	322	..	6383	801	103	2 6 1	..	2	8	0 19 3
13	31	3	1844	221	49404	10556	317	3 1 1	..	72	50	3 18 0
14	187	247	10551	11748	178777	11759	2929	2 10	1581	..	242	14 0 0
15	301	62	18048	1518	262249	38152	1856	2 5 1	2375	513	513	43 0 8
16	824	131	43274	9220	614370	93360	9000	2 3 1	5336	1175	745	95 12 0
17	52	..	3403	..	61723	8898	487	2 8	287	132	112	12 16 10
18	50	35	3660	2903	97449	3482	1864	..	..	..	160	15 18 0
19	730	85	44061	6800	547374	67713	1860	2 2 1	5183	1306	353	78 0 0
20	167	13	8447	963	129771	17439	1057	2 8	..	174	189	21 3 0
21	62	41	3648	2795	79711	14911	1552	3 3	..	101	82	8 13 3
22	110	24	3672	1604	76912	17405	688	3 6	..	..	79	..
23	12	3	735	246	19656	2450	201	2 2	..	..	23	2 1 8
24	29	5	1414	236	30808	5124	219	2 11	213	51	48	3 10 4
25	10	1	620	80	17740	2835	173	3 0	..	18	30	1 13 0
26	..	..	714	..	15653	2591	..	..	..	..	..	..
27	227	47	11996	2566	231870	38515	2316	3 0	..	452	169	31 8 8
28	12	5	661	497	19968	3515	122	3 1	..	..	18	2 2 8
29	47	17	2936	874	58235	9709	218	3 0	..	37	99	6 18 6
30	84	41	4695	2209	112404	18078	340	3 0	..	..	118	9 10 11
31	165	95	10378	5801	199417	36191	3876	3 1	756	327	516	23 12 0
32	4592	1155	245215	69731	4044235	601847	45384	..	15731	7023	5040	50416 4
	..	..	381	..	942	248	..	..	..	..	..	....
	4592	1155	245596	69731	4045227	602095	45384	..	15731	7023	5040	50416 4
33	..	25	..	1694	4533	740	119	..	..	..	..	1 1 0
34	..	2	..	384	4157	159	10	..	..	..	10	1 0 0
35	..	1635	..	109303	714746	79923	9987	1 8	9080	1200	1200	25 0 0
	4592	2817	245596	181112	4768663	682017	55500	..	24761	8223	6250	53117 4

1	945	410	54948	28165	804787	128608	7953	3 5	..	176	635	92 1 4
2	1	..	100	..	2355	392	5	3 8	..	..	..	..
3	35	32	1847	1778	44142	7641	951	3 2	..	..	125	7 13 9
4	11	..	1011	..	7491	462	71	0 10	..	2	15	..
5	44	34	2187	2015	48322	7101	902	2 8	..	18	48	9 3 3
6	39	27	2146	1734	37653	5928	630	2 10 1	..	6	33	..
7	6	..	279	..	6733	1138	138	2 10	..	7	5	..
8	5	..	195	..	3790	598	65	2 7	..	..	7	..
9	8	4	411	248	9280	1393	55	2 11	..	..	9	..
10	69	56	3662	2978	74439	11880	1372	2 8	..	110	55	16 13 4
11	5	2	175	114	2780	198	..	1 10	..	..	..	..
12	22	16	1210	1079	17356	1672	256	1 9	..	10	..	..
13	7	5	582	292	86309	575	70	2 0	..	..	..	..
14	5	3	257	167	5074	476	41	2 0	..	..	..	1 2 9

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Build- ings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
PERTH, FORFAR, & ABER- DEEN DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Don (Port Elphinstone)...	1092	7340	..	950	4562	4600	..	1146	705
Dundee (City of)	2179	10748	365	1932	8435	3698	618	3436	3472
„ Coal Supply	2620	5094	..	475	907	1735	..	4403	543
„ Eastern	7160	74487	..	20813	26349	16390	..	62393	12069
Dundung	61	118	..	69	109	4	..	197	39
Eigin	185	..	232	..	308	77	..	39	69
Forfar Coal	1287	1192	..	193	327	280	..	150	729
„ East Port Saving.	315	476	835	100	681	1240	..	809	16
b „ Free Trade Saving	468	716	1534	..	1251	1596	..	1081	..
„ High Street	289	401	1360	..	783	1550	..	..	58
b „ Northern	244	306	811	7	521	1012	..	382	..
„ Victoria Coal	945	828	..	56	135	234	..	291	840
„ West Port	257	370	..	..	325	..	..	..	59
b „ West Town	265	349	1243	..	445	1442	..	201	..
Fraserburgh	420	2686	1822	176	846	3236	..	668	120
Inverness	284	698	58	50	374	254	..	412	218
Kirriemuir	1279	8658	..	..	5702	2984	..	3039	907
„ Coal	459	417	..	265	55	120	..	490	382
Monifieth Coal	138	84	..	45	32	..	..	37	107
b Montrose B'k'g & Grocery	1373	1093	1004	659	1054	2033	..	2277	..
Muthill	123	128	..	101	100	11	..	217	156
Perth (City of)	6915	108687	27866	14481	51181	57407	17351	45344	..
„ Coal	2146	6118	..	1373	87	1551	579	5835	181
b Strathisla	529	1772	..	195	1250	1097	..	758	..
Thurso	1056	8818	..	1514	3465	2897	..	5023	1059
Wick & Pulteney Town..	418	1511	1078	20	305	1992	..	592	302
	64278	513498	68961	63810	247700	281647	36164	234144	37542
Productive Societies—									
Abernethy Baking	193	198	37	..	111	..	356	550	58
Auchterarder Baking ...	486	879	975	125	422	179	698	1248	127
Total	64957	514575	69973	63935	248233	281826	37218	235942	37727
No. 9—RENFREWSHIRE DIS.									
Barrhead	3066	58628	26821	7938	11268	1859	35093	47179	2492
Bridge of Weir	250	2078	1430	249	624	872	1270	1109	175
Busby	269	2803	123	198	702	71	813	1734	215
Cathcart	788	7038	3550	697	1277	488	4045	5776	565
Greenock Central	6832	73650	28637	10076	23544	35751	22685	33745	5083
„ East End	986	8215	10645	1178	3723	4637	6498	5688	690
Howwood	142	2376	37	124	360	65	..	2214	58
Hurlet and Nitshill	252	775	8502	587	883	5860	..	3247	754
Johnstone	1880	40052	2871	2594	6819	18951	..	21617	1103
Kilbarchan	551	14097	1573	884	1899	2299	1109	11376	315
Linwood	310	5329	20	450	900	67	..	4791	812
Lochwinnoch	275	2145	3758	268	800	5186	..	833	235
Newton Mearns	168	933	3004	255	353	1998	..	2138	319
Paisley Equitable	1521	5065	19982	..	3677	13783	..	11754	1075
„ Provident	8709	145552	18520	19756	24253	92355	4831	68988	4702
„ Underwood Coal.	420	3555	1468	2892	380	1120	..	8352	1921
Pollokshaws	1466	18275	1492	2112	3036	8185	..	12468	593
Port Glasgow—Fore St.	1614	21831	1926	1026	3503	5170	2625	16220	867
„ Provident	1650	27010	523	1886	4341	6859	2040	19211	..
Renfrew Equitable	1598	11083	25932	2180	3201	3698	3000	30705	1239
Thornliebank	557	2193	14420	484	1429	1792	5902	7711	1657
	33304	452683	175234	56434	96972	211066	89911	316856	24870

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
15	30	10	1054	696	21464	3560	351	3 0	..	..	5	
16	77	16	4823	723	61387	7809	494	2 6½	..	47	3	11 6 0	
17	30	..	1588	..	12046	891	206	1 4	..	12	2	10 0 0	
18	286	89	15439	6398	270793	45612	2986	3 2	..	..	..
19	2	..	50	..	1106	112	5	2 0	..	..	..
20	4	..	126	..	2195	179	..	1 7½	..	..	..
21	..	..	..	..	4082	451	..	2 3	..	..	..
22	5	3	259	189	7612	1473	19	4 0	..	..	..
23	..	..	473	..	9371	1853	14	..	..	..	..
24	5	3	216	193	6247	1193	18	4 0	..	..	..
25	..	..	350	..	4683	853	48	..	..	..	..
26	8	..	135	..	2925	323	10	2 3	..	..	..
27	4	3	163	193	6031	1108	14	3 10	..	..	..
28	..	..	338	..	5081	979	..	..	..	..	..
29	11	..	601	..	8244	962	95	2 4	..	3	2	2 5 6	
30	5	2	251	139	4403	364	30	1 5½	..	3	..	1 6 2	
31	26	17	1447	965	34813	4444	378	2 11	..	..	2	
32	..	..	84	..	2025	285	19	3 0	..	..	10	
33	1	..	51	..	528	23	2	1 0	..	..	..
34	..	..	1312	..	25133	3851	73	..	..	..	..
35	2	..	158	..	2360	110	3	2 0	..	..	..
36	269	236	13180	11100	280232	40874	1806	3 0	..	643	210	34 18 10	
37	12	..	1263	..	9225	1192	248	2 6	..	10	25	5 0 0	
38	..	..	829	..	10479	657	..	..	..	..	..
39	22	5	1132	277	18959	2190	366	2 2½	..	10	25		
40	3	3	211	190	2780	225	78	1 2	..	..	..
2004			976	114543	59633	1884715	289635	19772	1057	1216	191 10 11
41	..	4	..	217	2578	270	..	3 0	..	..	..	1 4 10
42	..	8	..	726	4036	738	83	3 4	..	..	..	....
2004			988	114543	60576	1891329	290643	19855	1057	1216	192 15 9
1	135	54	6060	4044	125381	19413	1646	2 6½	..	271	571	15 5 4	
2	6	..	358	..	7801	998	48	2 6½	..	5	11	1 6 1	
3	7	..	464	..	8608	1487	114	2 8½	..	12	14	1 6 0	
4	26	..	1597	..	27682	2983	312	2 0	..	5	10	4 4 4	
5	269	92	15119	5747	236301	32725	2684	2 5½	..	152	578	32 1 6	
6	36	10	2203	659	35804	5293	400	2 7½	..	24	55	5 3 8	
7	3	..	200	..	5562	790	117	2 9	..	..	6	0 15 3
8	8	1	522	20	14929	2701	37	3 6	..	27	27	1 5 5	
9	60	14	3520	1332	71394	11579	1683	2 7½	..	120	139	9 4 0	
10	26	3	1147	188	24180	3319	636	2 4	..	20	92	2 16 4	
11	8	..	563	..	15358	2752	258	3 0½	74	5	37	1 10 1	
12	7	3	464	240	11450	1517	102	2 6½	..	13	6	1 8 0	
13	5	..	417	..	8376	1839	201	4 1½	..	..	21	0 17 0
14	75	13	3175	1167	52442	6657	255	2 3	110	166	126	8 6 8	
15	351	81	16537	7196	279062	43862	6065	2 2½	1906	1077	311	44 5 4	
16	50	..	3108	..	34144	4984	181	2 4	351	17	106	2 2 7	
17	48	6	3372	419	57736	7457	647	2 6	..	119	124	7 6 10	
18	63	25	3257	1778	68502	12424	1026	3 3½	..	15	69	8 7 4	
19	69	10	3171	1073	60716	11405	1286	3 3½	..	20	124	8 12 0	
20	67	4	3743	277	72433	11044	424	2 10	..	121	106	8 13 9	
21	19	..	1237	..	24800	3499	88	2 7½	33	28	68	2 17 7	
1338			316	70234	24149	1242661	188728	18210	..	2564	2217	2601	167 15 1

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
RENFREWSHIRE DIS—Con. Productive Societies— Paisley Manufacturing .. Scottish Laundries Association (Barrhead)....	5423	52393	78919	8252	25820	38063	6606	65910	10917	22
	74	3135	11544	2215	501	11083	..	5688	540	23
Total	38801	508216	265697	66901	123293	261112	96517	388454	36327	
No. 10—STIRLING, WEST FIFE, AND CLACK- MANNAN DISTRICT—										
aAberfoyle	93	387	15	190	227	27	..	480	234	1
Alloa	4798	95842	7148	7164	28228	33016	16740	44792	2182	2
Alva Bazaar	1160	22072	267	1551	5711	4681	635	13352	1359	3
Balfron	140	552	..	60	146	..	..	830	86	4
Bannockburn	1745	32353	..	4941	7620	13090	4160	14268	6687	5
Clackmannan	346	9107	192	493	1027	2088	638	6924	359	6
Coalsnaughton	252	2487	792	595	1141	431	142	2419	643	7
Deanston	84	112	32	93	202	10	..	171	..	8
Dunblane	473	11334	30	455	1593	3308	..	7379	338	9
Menstrie	164	2777	100	211	709	457	323	1622	265	10
Newtonshaw	695	10732	806	1420	2343	3954	440	6608	1125	11
Stirling	4435	63032	4747	5175	17556	30964	..	31682	..	12
Tillicoultry	1350	13885	200	1319	4243	5509	1125	7017	1345	13
Total	15735	264672	14389	23667	70806	97535	24208	138144	14623	
Wholesale Society— Scottish Wholesale (Glas- gow).....	A 266	477010	3653160	789873	1371946	633773	41447	2915600	270252	1

f Clubs.

A Societies, and 598 employé members.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonua on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
22	..	500	..	25489	160843	17517	2558	0 8½	1195	53	432	25	0 0
23	..	281	..	10756	24003	3204	155	2 6	..	14	69	1	0 0
	1338	1097	70234	60394	1427507	209509	20923	..	3759	2284	3102	193	15 1
1	3	..	216	..	3356	308	13	2 1	..	1	2	0	9 9
2	153	145	9367	7440	201632	38259	3437	3 5½	..	358	375	24	8 11
3	24	27	1217	1320	44918	8402	832	3 3	..	93	80	6	0 7
4	3	..	190	..	3912	382	17	2 0½	..	..	1	0	14 7
5	48	41	3146	2608	86361	16602	1436	3 10	..	..	40	8	19 8
6	9	6	617	412	20373	4327	399	3 9½	..	10	45	1	15 8
7	6	4	332	258	13816	2861	112	4 1	..	15	20	1	7 6
8	1	1	100	86	2095	258	6	2 5	..	..	2	..	....
9	13	3	849	301	15957	3196	546	3 3½	..	31	18	2	8 0
10	4	2	252	128	6583	1210	99	3 3½	..	14	14	0	17 6
11	19	25	1425	1098	31751	5960	443	3 5	..	..	90	3	12 5
12	136	78	7434	5175	159126	29813	2891	3 4	..	260	182	22	18 4
13	40	37	1865	1848	50065	8760	495	3 7	..	100	50	6	19 7
	464	369	27010	20674	639045	120338	10726	..	..	882	919	80	12 6
1	2743	6134	120155	410223	9425383	426494	23527	0 8½	18783	..	10970	100	0 0

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
								House Property.	All other Investments.		
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
No. 1—AYRSHIRE.....	35	34173	615801	80990	43640	111367	193935	77916	388019	33980	1
„ 2—BORDER COUNTIES..	11	11389	176509	30452	18464	57768	71381	12662	111114	20105	2
„ 3—CENTRAL	42	45372	645644	302282	83844	187967	250949	64091	672766	66360	3
„ 4—EAST OF SCOTLAND.	22	84813	1428892	114536	291896	327395	445261	187501	1188423	111768	4
„ 5—FALKIRK	22	24487	408806	59416	29176	86499	106172	47328	290053	28257	5
„ 6—FIFE AND KINROSS..	33	38302	643699	20827	60412	161792	253139	27464	377442	30643	6
„ 7—GLASGOW & SUBURBS	35	108975	1293044	934649	232440	420899	719529	139396	1315738	99698	7
„ 8—PERTH, FORFAR AND ABERDEEN	42	64957	514575	69973	63935	248233	281826	37218	235942	37727	8
„ 9—RENFREWSHIRE	23	38901	508216	265697	66901	123293	261112	96517	388454	36327	9
„ 10—STIRLING, WEST OF FIFE, & CLACKMANNAN	13	15735	264672	14389	23667	70806	97535	24208	138144	14623	10
WHOLESALE SOCIETY.....	1	266	477010	3653160	789873	1371946	633773	41447	2015600	270252	11
Totals, 1914.....	279	467270	6976868	5636371	1704248	3167965	3314612	755748	7971695	749740	
Totals, 1913.....	280	447199	6361748	5332650	1611892	2879640	3344924	669028	7317734	684627	
Increase .....	..	20071	615120	303721	92856	283325	..	86720	653961	65113	
Decrease	1	..	..	..	..	..	90312	..	..	..

SCOTTISH SECTION.

[illegible]

SOUTHERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
ISLE OF WIGHT, LONDON, KENT, MIDDLESEX, OXFORD,
arranged in their respective

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
No. 1—NORTH METRO- POLITAN DISTRICT—										
Anchor.....	1075	1249	237	501	740	..	..	1235	563	1
Brentwood.....	1452	10075	5484	487	2359	5144	3548	5231	499	2
Chesham.....	1087	9048	600	467	2909	6006	617	1704	1163	3
Co-op. Brotherhood Trust	146	436	30	52	213	39	242	236	23	4
Croxley Green.....	367	1809	302	313	929	1215	500	350	83	5
Edmonton.....	20704	82003	18720	8422	29046	54676	8924	36723	1049	6
Enfield Highway.....	7246	80226	6006	4051	32285	27984	2280	40067	2717	7
Epping.....	826	4706	981	404	1589	3598	..	1682	271	8
^l Euston.....	782	281	..	214	1133	..	..	1837	..	9
^a Gothic (Edmonton)....	97	107	..	100	215	34	..	115	123	10
Grays.....	6623	52096	3654	5710	20527	29774	737	19108	1761	11
Hendon.....	1525	6050	4739	312	3597	7476	614	819	426	12
Hotel & Restrnt Employes	84	81	213	..	82	200	..	55	..	13
London Perseverance...	245	303	201	97	154	280	..	206	52	14
Railway Clearing House.	1254	1541	6833	1101	5312	1440	..	2801	1138	15
^a St. Clements.....	131	168	..	25	72	43	..	120	..	16
Stratford.....	34209	400627	5611	12026	77127	198564	74705	125800	..	17
Watford.....	5380	35601	6094	3247	14682	22042	..	15431	786	18
West London.....	8305	30545	5666	542	15712	22942	2568	5143	312	19
Willesden and District..	3381	9741	11772	501	5650	8025	7055	3033	567	20
Willesden Junc. Railway	457	3887	252	167	969	88	..	3696	6	21
Yiewsley & West Drayton	1000	3970	3007	268	2580	4560	241	725	239	22
Supply Associations—										
Civil Service Supply....	90086	353920	39214	124821	312971	207812	22147	75760	28470	23
^a Canteen & Mess (London)	368	12420	48598	2500	15028	33642	..	6817	49997	24
Special Society—										
Motor Cab.....	124	975	3263	60	57	3860	..	226	..	25
Productive Societies—										
Chesham Boot and Shoe.	91	1290	904	362	2585	641	..	10	974	26
Co-op. Bass Dressers....	57	204	244	1829	597	..	..	1388	722	27
London Bookbinders...	77	392	..	13	95	63	..	329	210	28
London Clothiers.....	86	983	373	520	1090	56	..	714	693	29
^b Woodworkers Limited (Letchworth).....	8	8430	18382	..	12180	11520	..	4780	..	30
Total.....	187273	1113764	191986	169112	562545	652333	124178	350139	91844	

d Hire System.

* Cabs.

SECTION.

BEDFORD, BERKS, BUCKS, CAMBRIDGE, DORSET, ESSEX, HANTS, HERTS, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, SURREY, SUSSEX, and WILTS, for 1914, Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	8	1	311	15	11656	291	38	0 6	..	30	28	4 1 0
2	28	4	1682	298	30173	3303	437	1 6	..	57	22	6 13 4
3	21	5	1135	396	24350	2658	393	2 0	29	31	55	5 4 8
4	1	..	115	..	1034	25	..	..	..	..	2	0 15 4
5	8	2	376	114	12515	1379	81	2 0	58	..	..	1 12 1
6	412	101	26145	9058	307374	24862	3452	1 2	..	615	367	81 9 4
7	207	27	13175	2700	172326	18751	3518	1 3	..	375	263	32 16 3
8	18	5	893	363	15898	1417	199	1 6	27	31	17	3 11 0
9	..	..	316	..	24979	1065	28	..	..	..	..	....
10	..	..	84	..	1478	82	276	1 4½	..	..	..	....
11	205	21	12814	2039	171113	16870	1899	1 8	209	375	142	32 19 2
12	29	4	1699	275	21888	1116	313	0 7	..	18	..	5 0 0
13	2	..	84	..	1200	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 3
14	3	..	153	..	2387	141	9	0 10	..	2	1	1 0 10
15	23	..	1609	..	33183	1417	154	..	..	..	..	2 2 0
16	2	..	161	..	876	10	4	0 6	..	..	..	....
17	912	430	62934	33500	792867	82967	17602	1 7	..	654	1031	165 17 5
18	112	21	6074	1809	130881	14082	1570	2 0	..	143	161	24 18 6
19	138	18	9920	1707	105206	4901	1329	0 7½	183	122	104	37 0 0
20	68	14	3928	926	45621	2214	344	0 9½	70	45	18	13 15 6
21	10	..	646	..	10630	1424	330	1 8	..	10	10	2 8 0
22	27	4	1354	262	17832	1379	144	1 4	103	33	32	4 14 8
23	2234	657	145008	53402	1935467	180383	32111	..	679	2531	2313	426 7 4
	1458	229	128645	27083	1582198	37031	42464	..	..	..	135	37 12 6
	150	..	17114	..	371713	2103	621	..	..	..	..	5 5 0
25	3842	886	291367	80545	3889378	219517	75196	..	679	2531	2448	469 4 10
	24	..	505	..	38841	..	48	..	..	..	..	....
	3866	886	291872	80545	38893219	219517	75244	..	679	2531	2448	469 4 10
26	..	52	..	3220	11603	271	60	..	..	..	25	0 7 6
27	..	23	..	1350	5162	395	26	..	322	9	34	0 7 0
28	..	6	..	357	630	50	22	..	..	..	..	0 8 3
29	..	25	..	2240	7075	588	54	..	46	..	10	0 10 6
30	..	..	..	6635	16952	323	354	..	..	..	..	....
	3866	992	291872	94347	3934646	221144	75760	..	1047	2540	2517	470 18 1

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
No. 2—SOUTH METRO-POLITAN DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Addington	16	04	..	123	136	8	..	175	71
Addlestone	1499	7721	087	664	3190	3380	362	3490	486
Bromley and Crays	7382	40922	23498	1844	25534	36458	14036	10094	3494
Croydon	4720	15529	9747	1197	9312	16166	2907	2550	300
Epsom	494	2136	3100	33	760	2592	1470	599	34
Godalming	1244	14358	2481	127	7533	6425	2216	1732	504
Gomshall	322	2306	404	117	1021	652	680	827	146
Guildford	2238	27282	858	3907	7469	13209	8055	10440	495
Haslemere	800	7905	1845	440	2125	3833	2491	2879	332
Leatherhead	459	2728	434	212	1010	1506	..	1184	305
Penge and Beckenham ..	2458	14846	2090	353	6076	8003	275	4415	602
Staines and Egham	1965	10977	3325	873	5185	8564	848	2246	663
Sutton (Surrey)	930	3961	2185	34	1711	3283	484	1096	100
Woking	1660	9287	13787	652	3400	4617	15490	1448	291
Woolwich (Royal Ars'n'l)	39744	431356	60099	50333	103051	149497	166958	191776	3120
Supply Association— Agricultural and Horti- cultural	65931	600588	124600	60918	177513	258207	217172	234066	10943
	4318	12545	100453	14824	58480	39554	..	2040	56046
	70249	813133	231053	75742	235993	297701	217172	237006	67889
Productive Society— bGreenwich Bread & Flour	80	912	..	130	46	905	..	91	..
Total	70329	614045	231053	75872	236039	298666	217172	237097	67889
No. 3—KENT DISTRICT—									
Ashford	2028	19346	6075	962	7257	10404	5017	5421	268
Canterbury	539	1307	77	224	753	369	..	835	182
Chatham and District...	3118	32798	7578	1190	13158	20393	..	10613	912
Cliffe-at-Hoo	343	1605	837	15	1006	1522	..	394	125
Dartford	2114	13919	6659	971	7500	8803	2542	3492	926
Faversham	1335	19733	1047	048	7079	3878	5778	6077	742
Folkestone	3063	38345	8770	637	13358	16454	..	14976	1416
Gillingham	6062	61523	17522	5642	22905	25435	4628	47715	1191
Gravesend (Borough of)	2310	14072	400	717	5669	6822	..	4192	383
Greenstreet	388	2910	..	386	1389	1038	462	1021	52
Maidstone	743	2546	965	328	1948	1698	..	443	414
Rainham	607	5097	525	464	3818	2446	298	1505	96
Ramsgate	720	2563	1212	73	1523	2033	..	494	306
River and District	4760	49278	3042	2387	16752	23292	3667	17209	3148
Rochester and District..	3130	20053	5619	532	7165	18527	200	2667	643
Sheerness	3306	42216	2442	2220	16649	16204	5277	12289	2296
" Economical ..	2682	22690	418	2510	4976	12532	4523	8188	278
Sittingbourne	3687	47932	8483	4461	9863	14059	6022	38884	755
Tonbridge	620	2440	208	264	840	268	576	1263	200
Walmer and Mongeham .	722	4998	532	172	2369	2012	..	924	595
	42277	405971	72510	25108	145977	189139	39590	178602	14928
Productive Societies— Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour	594	3247	1916	200	1086	5224	190	861	205
Medway Barge Builders and Carriers	180	2783	3442	..	598	5247	..	35	214
Total	43051	412001	77868	25303	147661	199610	39780	179498	15347

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£. s. d.		
1	2	49	..	1394	95	4	1 0	46	..	2	0 1 8		
2	31	6	1704	414	28419	2225	1 4	118	46	24	6 0 2		
3	211	16	11833	3262	149025	10275	0 11 1	..	183	151	37 6 5		
4	97	9	5388	654	64810	4619	1 0	182	95	52	15 12 0		
5	9	1	522	110	5938	120	0 6	2	2	5	..		
6	35	4	1962	342	30477	2344	1 3	..	32	40	6 4 10		
7	7	2	489	143	7570	460	1 0	14	9	6	1 13 6		
8	74	10	4978	880	72107	10206	1 11	..	138	70	10 8 4		
9	14	3	9019	219	16948	1957	1 6	22	33	18	3 12 1		
10	8	3	600	151	8481	350	0 6	..	11	7	2 6 7		
11	49	9	3060	710	36915	2795	1 0	..	53	34	11 1 7		
12	52	10	2719	561	33039	3415	1 3	175	75	38	7 13 8		
13	12	3	1415	368	13011	219	0 1 1	..	..	..	5 0 6	
14	44	5	2541	330	32501	2729	1 3	80	54	96	7 5 10		
15	1079	329	65700	34753	†34410	89152	1 2 1/2	4278	1796	2504	178 13 7		
16	1724	410	112014	42897	1440045	130970	22903	..	4917	2527	3047	293 0 9	
	67	190	3092	7246	61607	1625	1 6	..	621	..	10 10 0		
	1791	600	115103	50143	1501652	132595	22903	..	4917	3148	3047	303 10 9	
17	..	..	..	235	1173	56	41	..	..	..	..
	1791	600	115106	50378	1502825	132651	22944	..	4917	3148	3047	303 10 9	
1	54	3	2731	185	42069	4887	870 1 7 1/2	111	87	85	10 7 8		
2	6	3	360	230	7600	637	40 1 3	..	5	21	2 12 1		
3	92	20	5838	1127	76748	7765	1502 1 6	..	145	40	15 15 0		
4	7	2	454	80	5932	450	74 1 4	..	8	5	1 15 3		
5	60	13	3738	893	57305	5226	607 1 6	..	115	135	10 4 0		
6	55	6	3015	563	44421	3503	766 1 6	..	52	53	7 0 8		
7	103	11	5012	910	79428	8222	1819 1 8	..	..	100	15 2 0	
8	227	123	11674	5598	177400	22020	2394 2 0	..	490	364	29 10 0		
9	62	7	3816	478	44730	3008	644 1 0	..	58	28	10 19 8		
10	7	3	443	147	7935	734	107 1 8	16	16	..	1 14 5		
11	19	4	864	317	13730	1138	102 1 0	14	16	8	4 0 0		
12	20	3	1008	158	17222	1751	207 1 8 1/2	..	62	31	2 19 3		
13	8	2	685	136	10936	607	115 0 10	..	16	16	3 9 5		
14	131	47	7817	2322	117911	14275	1945 2 0	..	120	310	24 5 2		
15	76	6	4253	393	54335	4153	941 1 1	..	78	53	15 12 6		
16	111	23	5001	1427	82370	10177	1626 2 0	274	127	126	16 1 0		
17	48	23	3216	1738	47628	6810	885 2 3	70	87	78	13 5 10		
18	118	20	7249	1643	132835	18953	1674 2 6	..	130	277	17 19 2		
19	10	3	510	231	12500	900	99 1 2 1/2	..	22	31	2 18 6		
20	12	4	459	266	13914	830	220 1 4	..	..	3	..	
	1226	326	68143	18842	1047449	116646	16637	..	485	1634	1764	205 11 7	
21	..	32	..	2365	22019	3924	237 3 4	63	..		
22	..	15	..	827	1902	1 1 0		
	1226	373	68143	22034	1071430	120570	16874	..	485	1634	1827	206 12 7	

† Including £25,558 Bostall Estate and Insurance Operations.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
No. 4—SUSSEX DISTRICT—										
Arundel	547	3436	1514	661	2007	1436	744	1711	112	1
Brighton	4578	40354	4767	1599	13467	18507	11764	8277	1506	2
Crawley and Ifield.....	450	2059	1090	228	1489	1663	..	578	117	3
Hastings, St. Leonards and Bexhill	544	682	152	18	304	154	..	327	123	4
Haywards Heath	1120	7264	1538	460	3443	5220	..	1007	777	5
Lewes.....	1730	17024	4687	467	4593	6679	10636	1690	1016	6
Newhaven	1950	16914	4706	463	7095	9332	2676	6229	1189	7
Reigate	1800	24212	9332	771	3788	11767	15411	4475	1257	8
Tunbridge Wells	1792	9403	2133	850	3350	4958	2038	4136	483	9
Total	14511	121408	29919	5517	39536	59716	43269	29030	6580	
No. 5—HANTS DISTRICT—										
Aldershot	1405	6863	1382	251	2899	5121	690	1250	243	1
Alton	187	283	4	..	210	16	..	221	50	2
Andover	1634	9546	283	995	6261	4532	731	1564	500	3
Basinstoke	1190	8891	1057	656	3115	2574	..	5802	564	4
Bramshaw	49	202	128	29	170	260	..	25	..	5
Cowes.....	2018	10167	7996	634	6320	7238	3228	4091	582	6
Eastleigh	1555	9202	8210	275	6057	8761	1416	1426	2176	7
Farnham and District ..	602	2071	13	154	944	1198	..	552	..	8
bForton Coal	800	147	..	21	..	..	..	199	..	9
Parkstone & Bournemouth	3383	15120	2608	1497	6601	8397	2255	4000	..	10
Petersfield	344	1152	17	27	434	696	..	482	110	11
Portsea Island	12949	136671	19926	6136	38817	72657	17133	50111	4019	12
Ringwood	252	921	62	59	726	200	..	514	15	13
Romsey	291	669	9	112	687	225	..	224	94	14
Shanklin Lake and Bran- stone Union	602	5463	2131	284	2219	1677	3202	1029	378	15
Southampton	6279	37012	9842	2643	17730	20541	8133	6405	1988	16
Winchester	1221	7932	4342	628	3080	7836	1020	1974	583	17
Special Society— bFarnham and Alton Farmers	35395	252462	58010	14401	96270	141919	37808	79869	11302	
	131	482	..	798	501	..	..	1084	2183	18
	35526	252944	58010	15199	96771	141919	37808	80953	13483	
Productive Society— bPortsmouth Printers ...	103	319	886	21	148	1015	..	127	..	19
Total	35629	253263	58896	15220	96919	142034	37808	81080	13488	
No. 6— WILTS AND DORSET DISTRICT—										
Amesbury	109	382	..	..	155	90	..	107	60	1
Bradford-on-Avon	763	7837	1445	350	2082	2687	67	5310	503	2
Calne	378	1452	847	76	1035	1078	..	657	188	3
bChilde Okeford	274	901	300	1059	932	996	..	932	..	4
Chippenham	1610	8700	2504	443	4186	6829	..	2399	600	5
Devizes	761	3482	1191	222	2128	2155	..	759	1156	6
aMere	435	2173	322	630	636	572	1275	918	403	7
Salisbury	1420	10922	951	773	2871	4973	300	6923	485	8

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	11	1	618	128	9084	696	148	1 1	30	11	10	2 14 1
2	149	13	8851	1637	98456	8912	1789	1 3	547	148	77	22 15 0
3	11	2	588	121	9440	693	86	1 1½	..	15	20	2 2 10
4	7	2	373	146	4269	22	18	0 4	..	..	..	2 8 0
5	18	5	1389	303	20941	2248	283	1 7	..	20	17	5 12 3
6	37	3	1810	206	30705	3911	668	1 9	128	58	68	8 14 2
7	54	11	3093	831	52678	3806	755	1 0½	..	55	42	8 17 0
8	58	..	3994	..	41228	2776	1085	0 8½	..	16	7	9 9 0
9	40	6	2002	360	34723	4306	337	1 3	76	119	132	7 19 0
	385	43	22718	3732	301524	27370	5169	..	781	442	373	70 11 4
1	29	5	1541	314	19261	1605	248	1 0	..	31	19	6 0 10
2	2	1	145	52	1805	43	..	..	..	..	..	0 18 9
3	30	7	1504	789	35211	3465	444	1 8	158	63	53	7 17 6
4	32	7	1877	476	28842	2901	391	1 8	..	61	5	5 2 1
5	..	..	28	..	524	..	8	..	..	..	..	0 5 3
6	45	16	2384	884	49288	5844	483	1 11½	63	134	70	10 12 6
7	47	8	2455	1203	42322	3828	414	1 6	43	85	5	0 18 8
8	13	3	575	165	8190	626	97	1 0	9	12	8	2 13 0
9	..	..	26	..	2090	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	61	9	3381	856	53534	4865	599	1 5	92	353	201	13 10 9
11	4	3	202	148	6004	119	12	1 0	..	3	2	1 15 5
12	330	100	18364	7629	274595	29793	5998	1 7½	1189	594	292	61 10 10
13	7	..	271	..	4231	238	34	0 10	4	5	5	1 0 10
14	8	3	446	86	5651	302	24	1 0	..	10	7	1 10 3
15	18	3	1028	177	13883	858	250	1 0	..	17	12	3 0 5
16	153	17	9392	1165	110443	9074	1629	1 1½	..	169	102	31 0 0
17	25	5	1606	436	28471	2732	341	1 6	24	57	35	5 19 4
	804	187	45375	14380	684345	66298	10972	..	1582	1594	816	159 16 5
18	..	..	145	..	16653	291	24	..	..	..	..	..
	804	187	45520	14380	700998	66589	10996	..	1582	1594	816	159 16 5
19	..	..	..	395	631	75	3	..	..	..	..	..
	804	187	45520	14775	701629	66664	10990	..	1582	1594	816	159 16 5
1	3	1	119	56	2686	104	8	0 7	..	..	1	0 11 7
2	18	3	952	211	17576	1960	305	1 8	..	15	30	3 15 0
3	7	3	233	175	5789	369	64	1 2½	..	8	7	1 15 0
4	..	..	212	..	7509	535	40	..	..	..	..	..
5	32	8	1645	464	36315	3861	392	1 8½	..	81	10	7 19 4
6	24	10	1155	338	15825	963	150	1 2	14	13	12	3 16 11
7	5	8	254	332	10526	766	95	1 9	..	..	7	2 1 8
8	22	7	1409	412	25610	2785	453	1 5	53	58	26	7 0 4

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
WILTS AND DORSET DISTRICT—con.									
Trowbridge	4008	30175	7757	3094	10528	13787	13349	17460	1722
Warminster	756	5054	931	674	2248	1924	..	2096	443
Weymouth	2721	14700	1545	070	0261	10854	..	2157	743
Wilton	247	2280	..	..	751	124	314	220	904
	13482	97070	17703	8900	33813	40069	15305	40538	7267
Productive Society— Sherston Co-op. Milling..	34	381	506	67	101	066	..	177	327
Total	13516	97451	18359	8967	33914	46735	15305	40715	7594
No. 7—OXFORD DISTRICT—									
Aldermaston	109	731	..	07	485	125	..	494	253
Banbury	3858	07250	6347	1486	17936	33204	11954	10673	4124
Camberley	406	920	1322	5	560	1068	..	293	82
Carterton(Agric.and Dist.)	67	150	36	20	183	36	..	146	35
Chipping Norton	2304	34020	2384	1192	9382	11939	4017	14586	2091
High Wycombe	1100	3042	2204	40	1625	3687	..	713	306
Kingshill	1581	3450	835	25	817	4294	340	1316	172
Maidenhead	075	2741	2813	..	088	4766	..	557	190
Middleton Stonery	96	1069	..	99	450	32	..	797	9
New Swindon Industrial.	4124	23348	7424	2725	14900	15316	635	5961	1814
Oxford	10071	104400	9986	1774	32574	31192	37593	24985	4073
Oxford University									
Reading	9820	104589	5457	1332	22125	54499	45591	60071	5047
Slough	1800	14635	486	428	5500	7285	2004	2531	..
Steeple Aston	260	3091	360	107	1040	658	1408	432	300
Sunningdale	193	457	107	7	327	80	..	236	90
Windsor	1173	6027	1237	283	3243	3453	..	1672	569
	37637	430529	40098	9590	111835	172184	103542	131463	19146
Productive Societies— New Swindon Provident.	3014	4787	1135	882	1175	4086	1071	278	2812
Oxford Builders	59	604	405	53	174	465	..	275	272
Total	40710	435920	42538	10525	113184	176735	104613	132016	22230
No. 8—CAMBRIDGE DIST.—									
Arlesey	560	5323	86	680	563	1352	1689	3368	446
Biggleswade	400	1220	815	152	996	1203	..	717	..
Bishop Stortford	383	1540	1526	94	757	1922	..	681	91
Burwell	287	1025	..	201	738	328	..	480	32
Cambridge	6996	50899	7856	4108	21689	25123	977	20632	823
Chatteris	403	2361	..	278	787	82	482	1426	133
Ely	825	4126	483	289	2416	1935	..	790	313
Garden City Co-operators	610	1882	332	38	780	1318	..	447	187
Hitchin	355	1025	654	60	843	773	..	315	85
Newmarket	1370	13802	1367	683	5482	6894	450	4182	523
Potter	294	2212	..	302	360	67	..	2229	..
St. Neots	426	905	991	186	1116	916	..	275	120
Saffron Walden	371	1758	553	190	491	1498	..	612	37
Sawston	1133	10359	684	826	3042	2583	530	5542	417

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
9	107	13	4742	1211	91786	9307	1328	2 0	..	92	215	19 6 10
10	15	5	764	195	15743	1427	180	1 4	..	11	17	3 13 0
11	59	10	3244	938	50116	4645	650	1 5	..	60	23	12 13 8
12	3	2	119	101	5017	406	105	1 8	30	..	12	1 19 4
	287	70	14848	4133	284498	27212	3770	..	97	338	360	64 17 8
13	..	4	..	97	3787	118	18	0 6	..	..	3	0 5 0
	287	74	14848	4530	288285	27330	3788	..	97	338	363	65 2 8
1	2	1	204	52	4837	375	32	1 9	..	..	..	..
2	125	56	6415	3195	121679	10776	2627	1 9	..	204	137	20 1 8
3	3	1	226	74	4266	123	33	0 3	..	3	..	..
4	3	..	108	..	2119	150	6	1 6	..	3	2	0 6 3
5	75	22	3894	1088	75586	10069	1598	2 34	..	100	148	11 8 3
6	18	3	956	215	12460	578	128	0 94	..	12	12	3 11 0
7	11	10	736	634	11628	2907	153	3 6	11	..	8	..
8	10	5	562	138	5734	103	76	0 2	..	..	..	4 4 0
9	..	..	126	..	2292	195	43	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
10	91	15	4154	1337	78129	9624	996	1 9	204	186	108	19 9 0
11	213	23	11595	2808	201753	25048	4082	1 10	..	248	182	50 6 5
12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	194	56	12025	4503	184131	25198	6220	1 84	1196	478	180	49 11 6
14	39	7	2086	420	34539	2920	673	1 2	27	46	45	9 10 1
15	4	3	244	78	4783	314	146	0 8	..	..	..	1 6 0
16	4	..	193	..	3320	178	18	1 0	..	4	1	0 15 0
17	23	3	1312	207	10960	1400	318	1 3	..	26	15	5 14 7
	815	215	44836	14749	764216	80958	18049	..	1438	1310	838	176 13 9
18	..	25	..	1650	22827	4826	236	3 6	..	..	50	..
19	..	14	..	802	1041	52	30	..	..	5	3	0 6 6
	815	254	44836	17201	788084	94836	18315	..	1438	1315	891	177 0 3
1	7	4	342	204	13943	1706	181	2 0	49	..	10	2 18 2
2	..	..	447	..	4262	278	57	..	..	..	..	2 1 8
3	8	1	387	68	4767	183	69	0 5	..	2	4	2 2 0
4	5	..	265	..	4274	473	51	3 0	..	..	8	1 11 3
5	170	25	8594	1757	121311	11372	1908	1 8	..	125	90	33 5 0
6	6	2	295	96	7417	854	104	2 0	..	2	9	1 19 7
7	17	4	896	179	15367	989	173	1 4	..	11	12	4 5 0
8	10	..	533	..	8940	572	76	1 0	..	25	12	2 19 3
9	6	2	162	78	4620	240	40	1 0	13	6	4	1 6 0
10	47	6	2005	440	31764	3097	613	1 6	..	65	23	6 10 6
11	4	..	202	..	4360	405	190	1 6	..	9	5	1 8 1
12	8	2	529	66	7634	442	35	1 2	..	..	..	1 19 8
13	5	2	308	110	5016	306	76	1 2	..	4	4	1 19 7
14	25	4	1144	188	20624	2068	178	1 9	..	27	16	5 15 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					Owing to the Society for Goods.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Biddings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.			
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT—con										
Soham	165	530	350	40	425	473	..	253	121	15
Willingham	80	182	..	4	235	..	..	123	83	16
	14358	99158	15706	8131	41620	46467	4128	42077	3011	
Productive Society— Garden City Press	186	8769	6561	..	1783	12498	..	63	2490	17
Total	14544	107927	22267	8131	43403	58965	4128	42140	5501	
No. 9—NORFOLK DIST.—										
Beccles	1688	12629	8362	826	7728	9569	1498	4812	1095	1
Brandon	265	1039	917	122	720	1001	..	634	104	2
Bury St. Edmunds	1239	5147	26	236	2602	1866	..	1134	552	3
aCromer	484	1241	10	157	794	69	..	756	72	4
Diss	460	2293	..	..	690	150	..	2105	238	5
Fakenham	410	1712	..	205	920	287	..	1052	63	6
Great Yarmouth	2091	8143	2227	1130	3225	6081	..	3748	353	7
King's Lynn	2110	3591	4721	656	3983	5096	1231	808	509	8
Lakenheath	162	499	153	106	584	322	..	309	..	9
Lowestoft	2133	16432	1377	618	7086	10582	..	1650	093	10
Melton Constable	391	2868	..	84	1296	1117	..	1016	99	11
Norwich	9988	111311	7292	7977	29202	37909	9088	60351	..	12
Sheringham	571	3813	54	769	1825	680	..	2191	316	13
Swaffham	500	2254	84	261	1267	537	..	1104	89	14
Thetford	1425	7544	289	389	5107	2251	..	3217	..	15
Wymondham	470	2193	589	159	1280	1076	..	500	412	16
Total	24387	182709	26101	13695	68309	78683	11817	85387	4595	
No. 10—ESSEX & SUFFOLK DISTRICT—										
Braintree & West Essex	1497	13050	2386	712	4648	7251	1402	3330	701	1
Chelmsford Star	3761	37483	141	2374	12653	12844	1988	15720	1201	2
Clacton	666	5088	256	766	1016	2120	..	3241	34	3
Coggeshall	351	1590	635	90	852	1076	..	448	340	4
Colchester & East Essex	8336	87338	4358	6940	24240	33547	33763	16082	2163	5
Dunmow	220	1240	71	76	562	65	..	926	35	6
Earls Colne	399	3897	686	265	504	762	503	3552	25	7
Halstead	1645	14863	2098	1612	4835	5591	4465	6159	744	8
Harwich, Dovercourt, & Parkstone	1741	16964	6434	800	11306	10129	2231	1730	920	9
Haverhill	1653	9446	11403	1685	6263	12240	1443	4582	883	10
Ipswich	11115	118830	12694	10461	38962	64940	12571	39083	743	11
Lavenham	159	435	413	63	449	207	..	350	3	12
Leiston	1010	11725	47	675	2796	2280	4111	4894	88	13
Maldon and Heybridge	1188	6743	1850	680	4625	2283	180	1771	1148	14
Stowmarket	1255	2510	3918	1418	3213	4711	..	1137	666	15
Terling	162	1246	1036	224	194	18	..	2400	..	16
Tiptree	727	4238	1264	130	2077	2709	350	630	362	17
Wickham Market	461	3334	183	278	1317	2342	..	583	..	18
Witham	703	8256	754	916	1978	885	5130	2701	125	19
Woodbridge	461	1279	311	179	1614	616	..	41	..	20
Total	37620	349560	51838	30344	124104	166616	68137	109360	8191	

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Net Profit.		In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bona- on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
15	4	..	156	..	3189	174	23	1 4	..	..	..
16	2	..	100	..	1490	80	8	0 8	..	..	..
	324	52	16455	3186	259078	23299	3692	..	62	276	203	70 0 9
17	..	71	..	4622	10251	122	434	..	..	2	..	1 0 0
	324	123	16455	7808	269329	23421	4126	..	62	278	203	71 0 9
1	51	15	2384	467	43442	4666	578	1 11	..	60	36	8 8 0
2	5	2	311	58	6155	787	49	3 0	..	..	2	1 7 7
3	23	4	931	196	19353	1838	160	1 10	..	..	14	6 5 0
4	10	1	565	94	9073	590	52	1 0	10	11	2	2 10 5
5	7	4	747	142	10004	1162	98	2 11	..	6	9	2 3 0
6	10	..	498	..	8177	643	75	1 6	..	13	5	2 1 8
7	42	8	2452	453	33549	2723	357	1 6	29	43	47	9 8 8
8	47	10	2351	583	33262	3348	137	1 8	39	63	38	7 15 4
9	3	..	144	..	3845	438	24	2 3	..	..	1	0 16 8
10	63	12	2679	483	39672	4193	755	1 7 1	86	85	57	10 18 8
11	11	..	551	..	9590	520	131	0 10	15	7	1	2 0 7
12	295	63	15728	3004	263318	30866	5521	1 9	1617	316	155	50 16 10
13	10	4	554	233	10944	1369	175	2 0	24	22	5	2 16 9
14	8	..	392	..	7710	831	104	1 8	..	20	11	2 0 0
15	32	5	1607	364	35590	8106	327	4 0	..	..	109	7 18 4
16	9	2	542	118	10486	938	94	1 6	43	29	16	2 6 4
	626	130	32436	6198	544170	63018	8637	..	1863	675	506	120 2 10
1	36	7	1791	462	28392	2415	502	1 4	..	48	29	7 8 0
2	107	21	3981	1218	92788	10499	1704	1 11	..	..	104	13 0 0
3	9	3	654	264	12789	1487	218	1 4	..	31	12	3 4 7
4	7	4	337	163	6602	573	70	1 7	..	..	..
5	250	76	9079	2876	131003	13894	2598	1 8	..	220	85	44 7 0
6	5	..	211	..	3753	237	57	1 0	..	9	2	1 0 10
7	3	..	228	..	5710	795	158	2 3	..	8	11	1 12 0
8	48	10	1421	544	34626	2852	506	1 4	..	97	33	8 6 8
9	83	16	4090	1051	69714	6319	845	1 5	..	118	92	8 8 0
10	56	13	2531	1734	54000	5021	311	2 0	..	85	27	8 11 11
11	309	94	18018	5535	279056	32842	4586	1 11	..	706	273	54 12 0
12	2	..	112	..	2200	250	18	1 6	..	..	..
13	16	..	860	..	18579	2594	408	2 4	..	4	10	4 17 0
14	33	10	1629	454	24852	2455	214	1 9	..	56	50	5 19 2
15	36	9	1797	506	228578	2069	61	1 3	27	61	21	5 13 6
16	2	..	156	..	3491	266	46	1 11	..	..	..
17	9	2	476	88	6920	338	116	0 7	..	..	..	3 18 0
18	10	..	528	..	9474	754	166	1 7	..	16	8	2 4 11
19	13	4	618	171	11072	1392	310	2 0	15	32	17	3 11 6
20	7	2	725	135	8558	1044	52	2 6	..	..	..
	1041	271	49842	15201	832157	88146	12946	..	42	1491	774	181 15 1

s 9 Months.

t 13 Months.

v 7 Months.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 11—BEDS. AND BUCKS. DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aylesbury	1062	8644	324	641	3262	5026	434	1024	502
Bedford	1507	6631	3394	616	2635	5751	1830	1937	119
Berkhampstead	903	10051	7689	600	4190	7330	5331	3233	497
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford	780	6179	434	382	2333	1317	1184	2576	183
Grandborough	41	26	..	96	57	..	..	94	6
Hemel Hempstead (Boro' of)	463	1746	265	119	559	501	..	1242	45
Leighton Buzzard	823	7862	181	236	2158	2127	2023	1108	576
Luton	5136	51568	10418	3122	9889	15294	26203	17676	470
Newport Pagnell	523	2330	441	356	1543	885	148	952	235
Olney	238	331	79	96	446	96	..	134	87
Radlett	230	2518	1313	272	1576	2043	..	461	415
Ravenstone	66	234	..	50	113	5	..	202	16
St. Albans	1170	4807	555	272	1469	2961	..	1370	438
Sharnbrook	73	417	242	..	124	643	..	2	175
Silsoe	300	1058	..	185	977	18	..	644	37
Stony Stratford	719	11656	815	319	3172	3781	734	5585	166
Swanbourne	84	159	102	85	332	..	..	76	36
Tring	1001	13804	1135	412	2527	10434	..	2825	424
Wolverton	2273	28941	9845	1439	9331	10671	9516	12933	1058
Total	17392	158962	37232	9298	46693	68973	48303	54074	5485

No. of Employeea on Dec. 31st.				Salaries and Wagea.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital		Average Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Snscriptions.				
									Educational Pur- poses.	Charita- ble Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	23	4	1417	322	24653	2327	364	1 6	..	40	9	5 4 2	
2	32	11	1726	508	30394	3067	267	1 6	..	69	18	6 15 11	
3	34	8	1940	382	23251	2568	470	1 3½	..	43	50	4 4 8	
4	17	3	951	228	16521	2101	272	2 0	..	13	33	3 14 6	
5	1	..	27	..	627	37	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	8	2	546	142	8666	755	65	1 4	..	17	12	1 15 10	
7	10	5	649	100	12569	1502	340	1 6	..	..	10	..
8	89	22	4827	1607	100484	13455	2161	2 0	120	262	175	23 8 6	
9	8	3	452	176	9827	1088	88	1 10	..	39	18	2 6 10	
10	3	1	154	66	3918	299	14	1 6	..	..	3	1 3 7
11	11	1	874	70	8843	274	120	0 9	..	..	6	..
12	1	..	64	..	1278	146	9	2 4	..	..	2	0 7 1
13	20	9	1219	430	21229	1534	163	1 3	..	34	9	5 1 0	
14	1	1	85	45	1894	94	20	1 3	..	..	..	0 7 6
15	4	2	256	65	4164	310	50	1 2	5	2	5	1 11 3	
16	19	3	1124	249	20827	2333	522	1 8	..	20	7	3 12 1	
17	2	..	103	..	1667	134	8	1 8	..	..	..	..
18	22	4	1133	256	21315	2007	526	1 4½	..	26	16	7 15 9	
19	53	24	3205	1014	62961	7717	1201	2 0	..	165	31	11 2 11	
	358	103	20752	5660	380088	41748	6660	..	125	735	404	78 11 7	

* 53 Weeks.

SOUTH-WESTERNRETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in
arranged in their

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
No. 1—CORNWALL—										
Bodmin	278	2169	125	..	775	1061	..	519	148	1
Camborne	481	525	44	76	369	111	..	295	..	2
Darite	115	676	280	52	412	142	287	153	85	3
Delabole	654	3062	..	375	1167	616	316	2412	..	4
East Cornwall	91	633	..	347	909	198	..	546	90	5
Falmouth	232	247	..	146	871	..	..	..	91	6
Liskeard, St. Cleer & Dist.	1820	7653	1128	425	3495	3465	550	1895	12	7
Lostwithiel	130	160	..	..	114	..	..	154	..	8
Menheniot	258	707	411	260	688	367	290	420	100	9
Pensilva	138	935	150	8	566	144	..	275	202	10
Penzance	599	1806	728	71	1571	280	..	832	137	11
Roche	174	356	..	95	410	75	..	128	33	12
St. Anstell	786	1856	4	212	963	976	..	250	132	13
St. Blazey	324	1506	106	106	816	851	..	331	..	14
St. Columb Road	572	2086	206	240	1526	894	..	630	..	15
Saltash	1086	6009	333	1170	1176	2715	1022	4417	87	16
Tokenbury Corner Coal ..	227	354	100	..	194	2	..	332	80	17
Truro	281	669	752	..	581	742	..	379	10	18
Wadebridge	425	1777	776	104	1433	1258	..	441	108	19
Total	8071	33186	5143	9687	16886	13895	2465	14469	1315	
No. 2—DEVON—										
Ashburton	232	533	363	189	584	520	..	213	134	1
Axminster	136	79	..	..	112	36	..	134	56	2
Bideford	367	612	981	52	433	812	..	367	122	3
Bovey Tracey	634	3627	162	399	1350	695	..	2721	72	4
Brixham	845	5946	1030	935	2130	4491	803	1502	280	5
Buckfastleigh	858	14503	1447	1569	3901	5619	2939	6629	..	6
Budleigh Salterton	95	118	..	18	110	10	..	26	..	7
Chudleigh	176	301	134	..	164	115	..	211	85	8
Colyton	96	301	100	..	129	350	..	127	59	9
Cornwood	222	657	381	139	495	879	..	270	74	10
Cullompton	186	1864	184	34	1075	513	300	208	45	11
Dartmouth	464	1303	43	165	664	222	..	799	..	12
Exeter	3026	22685	7066	288	6287	17391	3366	4207	401	13
Exmouth	876	5413	72	302	1193	1498	..	3462	3	14
Honiton	253	1301	765	2	530	1604	..	195	..	15
Ilfracombe	209	352	462	55	288	575	..	227	53	16
Kingswear	128	442	73	126	207	318	..	210	..	17
Lee Moor	146	601	24	171	577	163	..	378	..	18
Moreton Hampstead	280	1407	..	167	1217	193	..	434	60	19
Newton Abbot	1793	15551	2400	1545	4953	5191	1789	8865	502	20
North Tawton	90	227	210	88	245	101	..	207	..	21

SECTION.

the Counties of CORNWALL, DEVON, and SOMERSET, for 1914, respective Counties.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
						Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.					Co-operative Union.				
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.	
1	6	2	303	101	6880	502	79	0 11	..	..	2	1 5 6
2	4	..	246	..	5104	442	18	1 3	..	..	..	1 16 0
3	2	..	122	..	1872	132	32	1 6	..	..	2	0 11 11
4	10	..	524	..	16689	1748	137	2 6	..	4	30	3 0 5		
5	2	..	94	..	2011	133	24	1 4	..	..	..	..
6	1	..	67	..	2332	99	9	1 2	..	..	..	..
7	21	3	1131	190	22163	1831	303	1 6	..	7	5	6 5 11		
8	3	..	8	..	4130	..	..	..	..	1	..	0 13 4
9	3	..	194	..	3739	319	31	1 8	..	11	6	1 6 0		
10	3	..	118	..	2654	184	41	1 6	..	..	..	0 15 5
11	9	2	319	90	8299	359	47	1 0	..	..	5	2 15 11
12	3	..	179	..	2846	200	16	1 0	..	2	1	0 15 0		
13	8	..	530	..	11678	903	95	1 6	6	4	2	4 0 0		
14	7	..	270	..	4655	440	62	1 11	..	10	4	1 12 1		
15	8	2	505	144	12888	645	82	1 8	..	5	8	2 11 6		
16	20	3	1326	240	20447	3085	217	2 4	43	63	45	5 4 2		
17	1	..	64	..	997	67	13	1 3	..	..	..	..
18	4	..	157	..	2901	117	14	1 0	..	..	2	1 10 9
19	7	..	334	..	5650	390	81	1 6	..	..	5	2 4 3
			122	12	6491	765	133435	11596	1301	..	49	107	117	36 8 2
1	4	2	294	..	3151	63	24	1 0	..	1	1	..	1	
2	2	..	91	..	1307	45	1	1 0	0 14 1	
3	4	2	261	82	4302	238	21	1 6	..	..	13	1 18 3
4	14	3	755	311	13853	1653	170	1 9	..	25	18	3 3 10		
5	19	3	804	150	16042	2026	284	2 0	..	20	28	4 0 0		
6	25	8	1194	448	26689	3597	570	2 0	76	76	39	4 5 7		
7	2	..	34	..	850	75	3	1 3	..	..	1	..
8	3	2	117	84	1778	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	1	1	122	31	1933	112	36	1 0	..	..	..	0 9 8
10	4	1	256	77	4633	493	33	1 6	5	..	7	1 2 5		
11	3	2	116	68	2331	196	84	1 0 1/2	..	..	3	0 19 7
12	6	2	301	104	5514	416	49	1 2	..	9	5	2 10 0		
13	41	13	2521	779	34112	2954	865	1 2	37	48	36	17 10 3		
14	7	5	440	264	10234	852	234	1 7	12	36	19	4 15 0		
15	4	2	191	63	3034	69	44	0 9	..	..	2	1 4 8
16	4	..	156	..	2586	127	14	0 9	..	..	..	0 19 7
17	2	..	85	..	2011	149	17	1 7	3	6	2	0 13 6		
18	4	2	306	130	5370	438	25	1 6	..	..	11	0 14 7
19	5	2	357	116	6762	525	64	1 6	..	8	7	1 8 4		
20	43	7	1637	378	30904	3718	593	2 0	..	32	35	8 8 10		
21	1	..	38	..	1336	76	10	1 3	2	2	2	0 8 8		

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
DEVON—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Okehampton.....	414	978	..	99	580	235	..	805	105
Ottery St. Mary	134	523	518	..	490	664	..	140	118
Paignton	1864	12255	1788	1555	5088	8181	..	4841	439
Plymouth Mutual	42125	521077	25571	108558	102081	212594	99962	280005	437
Plympton	524	2704	3172	115	1312	3032	2447	748	281
Sidmouth	600	4354	329	421	1850	1994	..	2078	..
South Molton	460	1596	228	97	764	421	..	851	..
Tavistock	533	1923	455	241	841	1412	141	448	16
Teignmouth	725	5987	585	370	1529	2660	..	2729	19
Tiverton	933	6508	1871	..	3042	4284	..	1293	207
Torquay	2634	31913	8545	1505	10067	19635	7733	6843	796
Torrington.....	248	665	..	195	485	25	..	559	6
	62356	667406	58879	119350	154113	296998	119480	332232	4370
Productive Society:— Plymouth Printers.....	198	1238	610	24	230	1555	..	14	403
Total	62554	668644	59489	119374	154943	298553	119480	332246	4773
No. 3.—SOMERSET—									
aBath	1084	5297	2894	..	1439	5463	..	1382	396
Bridgwater	1984	11377	6191	1054	3497	5553	5797	4930	520
Bristol	17437	128752	17276	11400	40010	77986	335	53401	7440
Bruton	48	2008	656	294	1008	1323	215	586	299
Butleigh	222	1814	19	134	1127	157	..	854	120
Chard	2008	23275	18	1328	8243	7730	7480	3864	1078
Chewton Mendip	89	83	390	..	346	59	..	34	43
Coleford (Highbury)	589	4363	731	209	1484	730	..	3548	170
Crewkerne	702	5890	111	300	2507	2916	..	1013	483
bEast Harptree	129	759	..	276	1169	19	..	..	..
Frome	981	7876	1491	264	1914	5998	..	2333	230
Minehead	249	623	12	..	236	119	..	232	147
Oakhill	213	1158	66	236	743	414	..	402	111
Portishead	569	2730	2324	246	1234	2612	1129	737	153
Radstock	4981	46580	11397	1660	15139	16146	12116	21298	..
Shepton Mallet	839	3856	923	336	2671	2358	249	927	149
Stoke-under-Ham	29	1274	274	150	890	450	..	545	110
Street Industrial	692	3870	993	322	1112	1641	268	2313	576
Taunton	2473	26474	651	1946	4018	5064	14312	8782	..
Templecombe	246	1466	424	135	703	934	..	485	83
Twerton-on-Avon	3075	15939	4216	2210	6951	9568	2152	6500	297
Wellington	1273	18885	900	472	3926	2582	12225	1989	940
bWells	320	432	13	17	328	84	..	..	..
Weston-super-Mare	769	5143	899	909	1625	2574	827	1871	199
Yeovil	2280	11030	3679	718	5446	7290	1674	4265	238
	43981	330963	55948	23436	407846	159770	58979	122271	14487
Productive Society:— Bristol Printers	66	466	231	14	107	509	..	42	243
Total	44047	331429	56179	23450	107953	160279	58979	122313	14730

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
22	3	2	317	86	5963	390	38	1 5	..	9	4	2 0 2
23	3	1	174	59	2578	88	16	0 6	..	..	..	0 13 0
24	50	8	2791	455	43444	4650	580	1 9	..	72	31	9 7 8
25	1057	375	55007	23469	866559	138920	24672	2 4 1/2	3863	2862	2274	205 13 9
26	13	3	623	145	9703	565	123	1 2 1/2	..	8	3	2 12 11
27	5	2	427	160	8887	1001	182	1 8	14	13	16	3 2 6
28	4	4	188	134	4034	331	67	1 4	3	8	4	2 5 8
29	9	2	590	130	7182	416	82	1 3	..	6	2	2 14 0
30	13	3	611	109	8571	773	198	1 4	6	..	11	3 12 2
31	14	2	592	142	10022	722	297	1 2	..	10	5	4 15 0
32	74	20	3885	1404	59483	5726	1498	1 4	..	96	56	13 1 8
33	7	2	348	80	5023	677	28	2 0	..	19	8	1 4 7
	1450	481	75629	29458	1210236	172086	30892	..	4021	3366	2643	306 9 7
34	..	18	..	858	2771	149	56	0 2	29	7	..	1 5 0
	1450	499	75629	30316	1213007	172235	30948	..	4050	3373	2643	307 14 11
1	19	3	197	242	9095	993	247	0 11 1/2	13	6	..	5 12 6
2	37	7	2003	451	35582	3646	512	1 1/2	43	78	80	9 6 10
3	393	139	26670	7497	307998	30160	5590	1 4	..	614	508	86 9 6
4	10	3	537	171	8244	920	78	2 0	..	..	10	2 8 2
5	4	3	263	..	4800	243	94	1 6	..	..	..	..
6	37	6	1850	285	37821	5028	1118	2 0	..	..	70	10 6 9
7	3	..	96	..	1221	..	2	0 6	..	..	..	..
8	9	7	549	347	15845	2402	188	2 9	..	11	14	2 15 8
9	18	4	709	244	16773	1137	289	1 4	..	..	2	..
10	..	..	204	..	4534	414	40	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
11	22	7	792	470	16906	1592	334	1 4	..	14	12	4 15 7
12	3	..	192	..	2593	130	25	1 0	2	..	..	1 5 4
13	5	2	249	130	4343	362	42	1 8	..	..	4	1 2 7
14	10	5	509	301	9718	715	123	1 3 1/2	..	..	5	2 16 4
15	100	21	6046	1393	132293	18987	1828	2 7 1/2	..	..	205	15 16 3
16	16	6	754	241	12934	1127	141	1 6	..	..	18	..
17	5	3	268	170	5966	373	59	1 6	..	..	3	1 9 2
18	8	4	455	166	10393	1254	185	2 0	6	..	..	..
19	44	8	2277	562	43763	6206	1222	2 2	57	60	20	12 10 0
20	4	1	267	76	6312	474	65	1 4	7	..	3	1 5 1
21	65	12	3363	702	50387	8692	590	1 10	..	140	126	14 4 2
22	22	7	1252	419	22876	2420	838	1 4	22	40	15	6 10 10
23	..	..	264	..	2929	208	22	..	..	..	..	..
24	16	3	468	261	8480	703	53	1 1 1/2	6	6	2	3 14 0
25	33	14	2006	828	436826	8338	492	1 1	..	71	20	11 16 4
	883	265	52940	14956	808586	91524	14177	..	156	1040	1117	194 15 1
26	..	6	..	602	1196	25	12	0 2	8	1	2	0 7 0
	883	271	52940	15558	809782	91549	14189	..	164	1041	1119	195 2 1

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—CORNWALL	19	8071	33186	5148	3687	16886	13895	2465	14469	1815
„ 2—DEVON	34	62554	668644	59480	119374	154348	298553	119480	332246	4773
„ 3—SOMERSET.....	26	44047	331429	56179	23450	107953	160279	58979	122313	14730
Totals, 1914	79	114672	1033259	120811	146511	279182	472727	180924	469028	20818
Totals, 1913.....	79	109407	971232	121471	133972	258946	465059	171984	409941	18651
Increase .....	..	5265	62027	..	12539	20236	7668	8940	59087	2167
Decrease .....	..	..	..	660	..	..	..	..	..	..

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operat- ive Union.
			£	£	£ *	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	122	12	6491	765	133435	11596	1901	49	107	117	36 8 2
2	1450	499	75629	30316	1219007	172235	30948	4050	3373	2643	307 14 11
3	883	271	52940	15558	809782	91549	14189	164	1041	1119	195 2 1
	2455	782	135060	46639	2156224	275380	46438	4263	4521	3879	539 5 2
	2382	703	131641	47059	2002997	232669	43874	3806	3682	1677	537 13 7
	73	79	3419	..	153227	42711	2564	457	839	2202	1 11 7
	..	..	..	420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

WESTERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties
HEREFORD, MONMOUTH, MONTGOMERY, PEMBROKE, and Part of

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital. £	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 1—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD DISTRICT—									
Bream	111	271	434	..	330	646	..	124	76
Cainscross and Ebley	4099	48687	3731	3295	10639	11676	11468	25892	1706
Cinderford	2775	31588	994	3758	7709	8560	1944	21738	550
Coln Independent	190	954	..	314	753	134	..	407	311
Dumbleton	105	490	105	72	352	63	..	269	25
Frampton Cotterell	619	5994	3183	235	3099	5372	..	1283	476
Gloucester	11355	177080	4798	11343	40879	48574	52709	65913	207
Hereford	1297	8794	1523	1279	2258	5468	830	5398	129
Kemble	476	2059	16	226	1066	418	..	810	264
Llanidloes	416	2573	..	189	1172	545	368	781	189
Lydney	309	3423	295	519	702	234	1870	1586	86
Newtown	1084	9384	508	982	3282	4221	1165	2990	591
Pillowell and Yorkley	252	2899	21	277	977	636	150	696	..
Soutn Cerney	125	204	..	97	174	25	..	216	60
Stroud	3870	48265	1227	2376	12924	11754	4527	20713	2516
bTortworth	48	180	..	30	261	..	..	111	..
Upper Lydbrook	74	429	574	22	322	645	..	185	53
Welshpool	308	979	..	76	660	100	..	873	171
Total	27508	339143	17409	25090	87559	99071	75031	149365	7360
No. 2—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—									
Aberdare Workmen's	2251	26106	523	3476	12585	8104	6800	5222	4168
Abergavenny	256	477	35	54	223	166	..	313	..
Abersychan and Talywain ..	3021	26683	4918	4011	10048	8713	13594	11013	42
Blaenavon	2141	40676	6665	2638	10980	13266	22066	6546	1236
Blaina	7293	131207	24998	7593	52841	36475	39944	43973	1665
Brecon	155	421	..	82	211	5	..	425	..
Cardiff	2700	8820	12817	69	5087	13761	3614	2205	2637
Chepstow	640	3917	1426	234	1839	2518	..	688	755
Cradoc	202	1667	2599	199	846	441	..	854	2749
Cwmbach	6582	98698	250	10164	55899	21591	16398	32482	1407
Cwmbran & Pontynewydd ..	295	3158	255	87	1397	2094	..	217	62
Cwmtyllery	1494	16187	2227	1448	8326	5463	796	7768	..
Dowlais	1665	10631	4114	1749	7661	9306	1036	1380	420
bDuffryn (Mountain Ash) ..	692	10298	..	25	11332	..	..	2324	..
Ebbw Vale	2125	22055	7729	1496	11013	10055	6475	7013	275
bGarddiffeith and Varteg ..	610	12893	398	1372	5844	2832	..	8170	..

SECTION.

of BRECKNOCK, CARDIGAN, CARMARTHEN, GLAMORGAN, GLOUCESTER, WORCESTER, for 1914, arranged in their respective Counties.

from the Registrar's Return for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.		Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	3	1	208	70	3022	151	11	1 0	..	..	..	0 10 9
2	77	24	4649	1700	112471	15974	1774	2 6	..	..	90	20 8 4
3	80	17	4193	958	84471	10941	1523	2 3	..	..	59	13 10 3
4	4	1	166	65	4101	443	51	1 7	..	..	..	..
5	2	..	123	..	2130	160	18	1 6	..	..	2	..
6	20	4	852	270	18715	1411	225	1 2	..	10	10	8 5 4	
7	368	59	17638	4536	276175	42268	6058	2 5	..	394	428	52 18 8	
8	33	7	1626	517	26680	3597	377	2 1	..	50	25	6 2 8	
9	9	3	542	234	11323	585	82	1 0	..	13	4	2 9 0	
10	5	4	247	197	6893	928	117	..	..	..	2	2 1 8
11	5	2	995	96	6361	873	153	2 4	..	10	2	1 12 1	
12	16	5	995	312	22531	3327	393	2 8	..	46	35	5 6 4	
13	9	..	822	..	11705	1257	127	2 0	..	..	12	1 6 0
14	2	1	93	48	1693	56	8	0 11 1/2	..	..	..	0 13 3
15	85	16	5274	1082	114623	16550	1677	2 6	..	120	99	19 1 11	
16	..	..	53	..	1232	60	9	..	..	..	..	..
17	2	1	148	73	2522	145	18	1 3	..	..	1	0 7 1
18	4	1	252	100	5469	597	45	1 7	10	5	9	1 8 2	
724			146	38276	10258	712057	99303	12606	..	10	588	718	131 1 6
1	51	11	3130	797	93266	17297	808	8 9	..	40	75	10 15 0	
2	4	1	216	104	3708	274	16	1 0	..	10	5	1 7 0	
3	92	12	8899	976	112611	15518	1055	2 6	..	181	53	14 4 7	
4	75	17	4584	1486	86718	11607	1553	2 0	298	298	35	10 15 0	
5	232	47	16706	3463	328410	40932	4477	2 0	850	325	221	36 4 0	
6	4	..	215	..	2964	314	13	1 8	..	8	5	0 16 3	
7	59	10	3789	890	39839	1110	355	0 5	42	26	..	18 3 8	
8	16	2	857	156	13660	1230	152	1 4	11	11	24	3 5 0	
9	4	..	410	..	10656	188	60	1 0	..	..	7	1 1 0
10	222	29	14379	1989	357384	65141	4205	3 5 1/2	150	92	146	32 6 2	
11	9	2	588	111	10496	1069	135	1 9	2	..	14	1 4 5	
12	42	7	2685	647	60244	8997	617	2 4 1/2	76	94	23	7 10 9	
13	52	7	8855	617	62896	5692	421	1 6	..	8	56	5 14 8	
14	..	..	1215	..	28324	4658	322	..	..	..	..	..
15	47	13	4277	1060	77376	8827	829	2 0 1/2	110	81	90	9 1 9	
16	..	..	1872	..	33591	4814	565	..	..	..	..	3 2 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—Con.									
Llanbradach.....	123	724	1055	..	1148	1714	..	173	..
Merthyr	366	1724	833	75	2097	1213	..	316	800
Newport	4111	60838	5944	2193	19084	13213	29118	9660	2428
New Tredegar	1664	15063	10524	1206	10757	10197	4348	1639	2455
Penarth	1165	4587	2524	903	8245	1476	2249	2251	575
cPenrhiwceiber .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senghennydd & Aber Valley	1250	8010	1892	2231	6066	8764	..	943	..
Trecynon and Cwmdare ..	500	7598	59	761	2462	1554	1784	3157	853
Tredegar	2039	13211	11630	652	9576	7700	5980	2786	821
Treharris	1220	13154	5858	828	7763	7610	3763	1531	1536
Troedryhiw	762	7083	1193	1909	4691	8165	969	650	507
Ynysybwl	1583	15646	4981	1438	8980	5993	3973	5021	1922
Total	46905	560932	115297	46898	271401	202389	162907	158720	27313
No. 3—WEST WALES DIST.—									
Abercrave	223	675	590	249	694	726	..	178	447
Alltwn and Pontardawe ..	1360	3880	4156	80	4590	4198	2666	1257	5171
Ammanford	911	6330	78	1022	3317	1607	..	4008	333
Blaen Dulais	36	124	121	7	125	158	..	9	19
Briton Ferry	759	5763	3590	619	2675	2608	4038	1435	573
Burry Port	331	1477	2313	229	1175	1560	814	420	268
Craigcelfnparc	118	378	41	314	343	..	..	202	284
Cwmbrwrla	601	2444	3687	530	1828	1818	2572	724	818
Cwmgorse	230	1457	1513	138	1297	1004	746	386	650
Cwmilynfell	247	1806	262	178	1531	1025	..	157	639
Gorslas	150	1432	150	372	1234	735	..	564	26
Llanelly	1040	5615	2376	813	2500	2885	1987	2245	287
Llangennech	75	369	..	103	266	..	..	229	62
Lower Cwmtwrch	162	892	570	104	821	629	..	217	554
Neath Abbey and Skewen..	550	3378	1156	1940	3525	3295	540	596	2075
Pembroke Dock	1342	4513	1445	696	3636	3329	..	925	252
Pontardulais	925	9894	3203	1207	6615	5380	2653	1226	1500
aPontyberem	200	1902	406	36	1421	760	..	491	318
Resolven	550	8858	1222	930	4411	3139	1224	3197	1318
Swansea	1740	6843	10353	377	6053	7099	5324	1831	1120
Treboeth	370	1808	2941	281	1702	1549	1243	411	515
Trimsaran	117	481	248	357	638	139	..	115	900
Ystalyfera	143	488	383	..	322	431	100	72	407
Total	12180	75809	40804	10582	50719	44574	23907	20895	17981
Productive Societies:—									
Cymmer, Corrwg & Gwynfi Baking	9	452	605	210	165	795	..	197	109
Swansea Printers	72	580	583	175	156	795	..	..	828
Total	12261	76841	41992	10967	51040	46164	23907	21092	18978

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Donns on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
17	3	1	361	86	4529	443	27	1 5 1/2		3	2	0 12 7
18	13	1	560	116	12473	716	65	1 0		4	5	1 13 0
19	121	27	6044	090	97659	9816	2230	1 6	12	105	65	20 16 8
20	64	16	3850	1136	79634	8360	400	2 0	27	41	45	6 18 9
21	31	4	1550	283	29128	2542	186	1 7	..	64	64	5 13 0
22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23	38	5	2775	401	57606	8157	211	2 7	..	47	32	6 4 0
24	11	4	755	246	17648	3338	183	3 7	..	9	12	2 4 10
25	38	10	3123	725	60474	6104	368	1 9	..	90	10	10 3 1
26	44	11	2827	679	54917	6278	541	2 1	..	20	50	5 0 0
27	34	4	1912	568	36000	4300	220	2 0	..	40	..	3 12 11
28	49	10	3229	863	77610	8666	521	2 3	..	96	45	8 4 11
	1355	251	91603	19429	1849321	245888	20535	..	1518	1627	1084	221 19 6
1	2	1	181	55	2776	93	16	0 6	..	1	..	..
2	22	6	2561	811	37949	3459	344	2 6	..	6	10	7 19 8
3	21	4	1321	236	27705	2840	271	2 0	..	10	13	3 7 9
4	2	..	44	..	599	83	1	0 6	..	..	..	..
5	18	5	1151	321	18422	1498	291	1 3	..	11	28	4 2 8
6	7	2	426	106	8404	746	64	1 6	23	23	11	1 14 3
7	3	..	166	..	2352	124	17	1 3	..	5	..	0 12 4
8	12	2	821	130	12138	370	129	1 0	..	23	..	3 3 9
9	5	..	358	..	6038	683	4	2 0	..	2	6	0 15 8
10	7	2	488	116	8594	742	71	1 9	..	..	1	1 5 6
11	5	4	272	159	6711	754	52	1 9	..	..	7	0 14 7
12	19	3	1249	234	24074	1714	187	1 2	83	40	12	4 13 0
13	2	..	116	..	2484	201	7	1 6	..	..	..	0 8 4
14	4	..	283	..	4897	221	42	0 10	..	2	..	0 16 2
15	16	2	1450	179	24992	1637	226	1 0	..	10	67	2 17 3
16	24	3	1281	122	28830	2538	199	1 9	..	40	20	5 19 0
17	90	5	1878	334	46038	5402	320	2 1 1/2	..	8	18	4 10 0
18	7	1	518	20	9356	..	40	1 0	..	..	..	0 5 7
19	18	4	1276	325	30079	8443	384	2 0	..	42	22	2 12 1
20	55	15	3001	1171	44575	2914	247	1 0	198	68	67	7 17 8
21	12	2	672	165	11687	937	76	1 0 1/2	..	20	1	1 17 0
22	3	1	221	62	5502	321	..	1 5	..	12	..	0 12 0
23	3	..	247	..	2422	..	3	..	..	2	..	0 13 6
	297	62	19981	4046	361624	30670	2991	..	304	325	283	56 17 9
24	..	7	..	622	4684	128	20	..	..	..	2	..
25	..	16	..	1040	1997	..	12	0 6	18	..	..	..
	297	85	19981	5708	368305	30798	3023	..	322	325	285	56 17 9

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							Honso Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Nc. 4—MID-GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—									
Aberavon	352	647	..	17	797	128	..	434	282
Abergwynfi	278	2668	41	714	2682	915	..	950	592
Afan Valley	228	1371	1576	400	1364	580	1258	463	220
Barry and District	1316	7183	5271	920	6173	4393	2493	946	900
Blaengarw	400	2828	680	387	1804	2194	143	845	629
Bryn	87	598	335	140	552	10	201	211	311
Caerau and Maesteg	688	3898	8190	262	3470	6084	2726	1145	1035
<i>a</i> Cwmavon	10	33	..	6	..	..	..	30	9
Cymmer	425	5007	2166	321	2272	4292	99	1773	519
<i>a</i> Ferndale	2996	24423	..	21131	14084	16370	..	22868	4304
Glyncorrgw	260	2821	425	327	1600	1181	..	1092	4427
<i>b</i> Margam	76	240	..	45	348	..	..	100	..
Mid-Rhondda	1900	7669	5075	1977	7935	7048	2353	1045	50
Nantymoel	1554	19215	..	8800	8536	6453	1291	6607	3728
Pantdu	204	1967	596	402	1745	536	..	981	166
Penygraig	2000	10992	2925	2202	6623	8886	2338	495	1564
Pontrydyfen	160	1695	200	170	1018	755	..	343	417
Pontycymmer	1408	12179	2511	2079	7360	5715	2997	2064	2278
Pontyrhyl	92	897	..	183	633	..	..	414	386
Taibach and Port Talbot ..	676	3712	2021	687	2257	2555	1031	1712	199
Ton	2135	31952	4461	1232	12892	13709	21.2	15137	426
<i>b</i> Treorky	1675	19870	..	3500	7376	4604	..	18696	..
Total	18920	162465	96354	40902	91516	86288	19142	77851	18442

d Hire System.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages,		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	6	..	642	..	8669	247	20	1 0	..	11	4	1 13 6
2	8	1	828	74	17508	2148	85	2 6	..	3	13	..
3	6	1	332	68	9485	1233	38	2 6	..	..	1	1 2 0
4	40	4	1881	447	35584	3056	295	1 7	..	9	57	5 5 2
5	7	2	726	165	16658	1845	81	2 4½	..	3	..	2 1 8
6	2	1	216	107	3882	154	6	1 0	..	2	1	..
7	25	4	1592	148	18218	81	65	2 0	..	23	7	3 3 8
8	..	..	..	..	87	4	3	..	..	..	..	..
9	13	..	1030	..	23197	2798	242	2 5½	2	12	21	2 3 8
10	112	11	7838	840	193732	38179	175	4 0	..	60	113	..
11	5	..	525	..	15719	2231	74	2 10	..	..	..	1 6 8
12	..	..	110	..	2813	265	10	..	..	..	..	..
13	49	..	2383	..	57848	6627	126	2 0	..	..	18	7 16 3
14	48	17	4044	977	84534	4061	480	2 6	..	18	17	8 17 3
15	4	..	343	..	12515	1996	90	3 0	..	..	1	1 0 10
16	65	15	4311	1031	106301	18959	208	2 6	..	..	185	8 7 8
17	6	1	263	86	5162	386	57	1 6	..	..	8	1 0 0
18	34	9	2700	639	62313	8885	506	2 9	..	55	50	6 11 0
19	2	..	212	..	4117	433	31	2 0½	..	4	3	0 8 4
20	22	5	1296	247	31651	4380	146	2 6	..	37	8	2 10 0
21	76	19	4205	988	92994	11529	1235	2 0	..	90	47	10 1 8
22	..	..	2628	..	72026	11134	..	..	..	..	..	..
530			38105	5817	875013	120571	3973	..	2	327	549	58 9 4

s Nine Months.

WESTERN SECTION.

[illegible]

A SUMMARY FOR ALL THE SECTIONS.

NAME OF SECTION.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.			Owing to the Society for Goods.									
								House Property.	All other Investments.											
Ireland (excluding Agricultural, Dairy, Specials, &c.)	37	22518	159190	26501	17151	67889	93922	8234	53152	£	£	22347	168958	207651	1992737	749740	248744	20818	72093	
Midland..	215	409650	4659991	874412	341480	1502307	2006469	1253390	1563928											
Northern	141	352149	5430176	568749	269108	1234655	1799086	1225279	2434941											
North-Western	466	1217325	20343590	5994148	3524369	7216674	8116591	5149076	11342227											
Scottish.....	279	467270	6976868	5636371	1704248	3167965	3314612	755748	7971695											
Southern	201	498062	8847010	788057	371984	1512307	1949966	714510	1347436											
South-Western	79	114672	1033259	130311	146511	279182	472737	180924	469028											
Western	93	105594	1139381	211052	123852	601516	433912	280987	407028											
Totals for 1914	1511	3183140	43589465	14220101	6498703	15482495	18247885	9610148	25589435											
Totals for 1913	1508	3011390	41119973	13800008	5819123	14231682	17803498	9158940	24231123											
Increase	3	176750	2470092	420093	679580	1200813	444987	451208	1358312											
Decrease											

A SUMMARY FOR ALL THE SECTIONS.

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A SUMMARY FOR ALL THE SECTIONS.—Continued.

[illegible]

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE SOCIETIES.

	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.					
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
								House Property.	All other Investments.			
Distributive Societies	1391	3054297	£ 39573949	£ 5744394	£ 2912853	£ 9970421	£ 14901283	£ 9357530	£ 18949380	£ 1319128	1	
Productive Societies	108	36880	987613	454736	228715	563960	800030	93160	603486	275698	2	
Supply Associations.....	4	95117	380745	191265	142972	397641	281331	22147	85340	137497	3	
Special Societies	6	387	40080	5988	540469	4467	30615	86743	493428	10832	4	
English Wholesale Socy.— Distributive.....	1	1193	2130959	1054001	1883921	1523466	1104093	9121	2842201	1523741	5	
Productive .....	..	..	..	3116057	..	1660594	1096760	..	..	..	6
Scottish Wholesale Socy.— Distributive.....	1	266	477010	2728426	789873	634409	302982	41447	2015600	270252	7	
Productive .....	..	..	..	924734	..	737537	330791	..	..	..	8
Totals.....	1511	3188140	43589465	14220101	6498708	15482495	18247885	9610148	25289435	3543088		

RETURNS RELATING TO

a These particulars are taken from our last year's returns. *b* These particulars are taken this office or to

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
(a) Cotton, Linen, Silk, & Wool.	Corsets	Kettering Corset Manufacturing	1
	Cotton Cloth	Burnley Self-Help Manufacturing	2
	Cotton Thread	Leicester Thread Mills	3
	Fustian	Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing	4
	Hosiery	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers	5
	"	Wigston Hosiery	6
	Ready-made Clothing	Kettering Clothing	7
	"	Ideal Clothiers (Wellingborough)	8
	"	London Clothiers	9
	Quilts, Table Covers, &c.	Eccles Manufacturing	10
	Silk Twist	Leek Silk Twist Manufacturing	11
	"	Macclesfield Silk	12
	Worsted and Wool	Thomson, Wm., and Sons Limited (Huddersfield)	13
	"	Airedale Worsted Manufacturing (Bradford)	14
	"	Delph Woollen Manufacturing	15
		Total	
(b) Leather Workers.	Boots and Shoes	<i>a</i> Avalon (Rothwell) Boot and Shoe	16
	"	Chesham Boot and Shoe	17
	"	Crompton (Desborough) Boot and Shoe	18
	"	Excelsior (Sileby) Boot and Shoe	19
	"	Finedon Boot and Shoe	20
	"	Glenfield Boot and Shoe	21
	"	Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe	22
	"	Kettering Boot and Shoe	23
	"	Kettering Union Boot and Shoe	24
	"	Leicester Anchor Boot and Shoe	25
	"	Leicester Equity Boot and Shoe	26
	"	Leicester Self-Help Boot and Shoe	27
	"	Midland (Wellingborough) Boot and Shoe	28
	"	Nantwich Boot and Shoe	29
	"	Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston)	30
	"	Pioneer Co-operative Boot (London)	31
	"	Ringstead Unity	32
	"	St. Crispin Productive (Raunds)	33
	"	"Sperope" Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	34
		Total	

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1914.

from the Registrar's Returns for 1913. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar;

	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	377	5126	5357	1470	9649	3340	..	486	5802	200	7909
2	313	8759	18906	..	12148	12203	..	144	3722	168	7294
3	50	625	134	..	415	453	..	23	125	6	301
4	884	32090	400	14894	10098	12713	1682	21429	4997	297	16340
5	253	5123	5622	611	6781	3786	..	1912	4407	85	4131
6	315	9191	1964	305	5994	6316	..	1146	2065	54	2750
7	1444	22841	22172	12282	93629	19050	..	7796	7880	954	39829
8	1096	20253	17069	9408	22585	10998	..	22036	7302	742	31580
9	86	983	373	520	1090	56	..	714	693	25	2240
10	204	12295	10451	3025	11284	11765	..	1491	3418	100	6262
11	119	8224	8647	2439	6522	4586	..	4628	6229	102	5210
12	267	8668	9187	560	9579	3821	..	4582	2692	114	7347
13	425	14345	16491	3912	27340	638	..	3005	10413	119	9736
14	454	7235	2261	1517	9371	410	..	1270	2332	47	2308
15	80	2094	888	51	1549	920	97	380	375	11	419
	6367	157862	119772	50934	168034	91055	1779	70992	62452	3024	143656
16	220	1942	6904	956	12841	4696	..	2969	6412	262	13745
17	91	1290	904	362	2585	641	..	10	974	52	3220
18	268	4213	4246	20	4177	3357	275	124	3408	86	4291
19	100	2355	3022	851	3172	2183	..	793	2434	88	5440
20	28	4188	470	850	8558	697	..	405	4869	120	5352
21	246	3236	3629	1179	2410	1889	..	1697	2559	94	4984
22	251	4945	2798	1954	6109	3500	..	48	3275	91	5511
23	697	9495	7310	5967	12246	3790	..	2706	6080	223	15539
24	270	1246	2858	675	4067	1240	..	4	1819	64	8776
25	540	5453	6367	800	9728	6292	..	767	2555	160	9199
26	975	12010	14664	2552	19207	8603	..	724	2030	248	14748
27	184	2129	1889	489	2114	2944	..	13	1613	66	3526
28	195	4773	2886	1418	9825	1037	..	681	5182	109	6850
29	112	793	610	244	723	1121	..	..	321	28	917
30	186	2810	3546	1504	8032	2315	..	435	3045	110	6279
31	100	798	623	1000	2149	1153	..	53	20	16	1303
32	24	1134	..	223	6087	512	..	358	1225	82	2381
33	55	4388	1672	1534	10221	1650	..	883	5232	180	11163
34	223	3115	6616	877	6445	1295	..	1256	2579	83	4855
	4765	70818	71014	23459	130696	48915	275	13926	55591	2162	123079

RETURNS RELATING TO

a These particulars are taken from our last year's returns. *b* These particulars are taken this office or to

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.		
(A) Cotton, Linen, Silk, & Wool.	Corsets	Kettering Corset Manufacturing 1
	Cotton Cloth	Burnley Self-Help Manufacturing 2
	Cotton Thread	Leicester Thread Mills 3
	Fustian	Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing 4
	Hosiery	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers 5
	"	Wigston Hosiers 6
	Ready-made Clothing	Kettering Clothing 7
	"	Ideal Clothiers (Wellingborough) 8
	"	London Clothiers 9
	Quilts, Table Covers, &c.	Eccles Manufacturing 10
	Silk Twist	Leek Silk Twist Manufacturing 11
	"	Macclesfield Silk 12
	Worsted and Wool	Thomson, Wm., and Sons Limited (Huddersfield) 13
	"	Airedale Worsted Manufacturing (Bradford) 14
	"	Delph Woollen Manufacturing 15
Total		
(B) Leather Workers.	Boots and Shoes	<i>a</i> Avalon (Rothwell) Boot and Shoe 16
	"	Chesham Boot and Shoe 17
	"	Crompton (Desborough) Boot and Shoe 18
	"	Excelsior (Sileby) Boot and Shoe 19
	"	Finedon Boot and Shoe 20
	"	Glenfield Boot and Shoe 21
	"	Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe 22
	"	Kettering Boot and Shoe 23
	"	Kettering Union Boot and Shoe 24
	"	Leicester Anchor Boot and Shoe 25
	"	Leicester Equity Boot and Shoe 26
	"	Leicester Self-Help Boot and Shoe 27
	"	Midland (Wellingborough) Boot and Shoe 28
	"	Nantwich Boot and Shoe 29
	"	Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston) 30
	"	Pioneer Co-operative Boot (London) 31
	"	Ringstead Unity 32
	"	St. Crispin Productive (Raunds) 33
	"	"Sperope" Boot and Shoe (Barwell) 34
Total		

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1914.

from the Registrar's Returns for 1913. * These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

NET PROFIT: HOW DIVIDED.

	Sales during the Year.	NET PROFIT: HOW DIVIDED.									
		Profits during the Year.	Loss during the Year.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
1	37879	2077	..	439	5	419	1 3	637	0 6	50	73
2	52158	..	1386	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3	1729	..	245	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	53477	6233	..	1598	5	818	1 0	2506	1 0	..	30
5	25732	1035	..	224	5	176	0 4½	102	0 1½	29	50
6	19560	1245	..	410	5	103	0 11	171	0 2½	19	38
7	140054	12411	..	2046	8	3124	1 7	4760	0 8½	175	350
8	130167	11734	..	1368	5	2175	1 6	4570	0 9	..	..
9	7075	588	..	54	..	46	..	246	..	..	10
10	31528	1582	..	652	5½	..	..	..	..	..	27
11	25184	1439	..	919	7½	369	1 6	..	..	..	..
12	18327	..	698	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
13	42440	2943	..	684	5	..	..	..	..	9	186
14	20433	961	..	355	5	35	0 4	312	0 4	18	28
15	2450	137	..	105	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
	613193	42385	2329	8854	..	7265	..	13304	..	305	743
16	71320	313	..	96	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
17	11608	271	..	60	5	..	..	..	..	..	25
18	23239	324	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19	22190	1843	..	190	7½	537	2 3	336	0 6	74	36
20	26089	1447	..	208	..	73	..	..	..	..	25
21	20021	1036	..	160	5	218	0 11	236	0 3½	35	22
22	25913	1540	..	240	6½	354	1 3	316	0 2½	24	18
23	71256	8860	..	404	6½	1027	1 4	1712	0 6½	86	172
24	17586	986	..	62	5	..	..	..	..	10	14
25	30265	974	..	254	5	192	0 9	220	0 3	48	23
26	52072	3140	..	630	5	680	0 10	790	0 4½	49	166
27	14868	355	..	94	5	70	0 9	90	0 3	7	2
28	33151	2343	..	299	5	729	1 0	728	0 8	154	65
29	2856	..	110	20	2½	..	..	..	..	..	..
30	26601	1293	..	137	5	310	0 11½	180	0 2½	18	108
31	6759	231	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	109	..
32	9864	926	..	411	37½	..	..	..	..	..	2
33	60848	4145	..	322	7½	1776	..	..	..	1	75
34	24238	1363	..	155	5	289	1 3	397	0 5	9	21
	550744	26940	110	3742	..	6305	..	5105	..	624	790

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) Metal Workers.	Needles	^a Alcester Needle Makers	35
	Watches	Andrews Watch Manufacturing (Coventry)	36
	"	Coventry Watch	37
	Cutlery	Sheffield Cutlery	38
	"	" Federated Cutlers	39
	"	^b " Trade-unionists' Sheep Shear Manufac. .	40
	Locks, &c.	Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	41
	Clog Iron and Sundries	Calderdale Clog Sundries Manufacturing (Walsden)	42
		Total	
(d) Wood Workers.	Cabinet Making, &c.	Bolton Cabinet Makers	43
	"	Bradford "	44
	"	Newcastle-on-Tyne Household Furnishing	45
	"	Midland Wood Workers	46
	Carriage Builders	Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights ..	47
	Ship Building, &c.	Medway Barge Builders and Carriers	48
		Total	
(e) Building, &c.	Building, &c.	Coventry Builders	49
	"	Lincoln Land and Building	50
	"	Oxford Builders	51
	"	^b Wood Workers Limited	52
		Total	
(f) Printing and Bookbinding.	Bookbinding	Bookbinders (London)	53
	Printing	Birmingham Printers	54
	"	Blackpool Union Printers	55
	"	Bristol Printers	56
	"	Co-operative Newspaper (Manchester)	57
	"	Co-operative Printing (Manchester)	58
	"	Derby Printers	59
	"	Garden City Press (Letchworth)	60
	"	Hull Printers	61
	"	Leicester Printers	62
	"	Long Eaton Printers	63
	"	Nottingham Printers	64
	"	^b Plymouth Printers	65
	"	^a Portsmouth Printers	66
	"	^a Swansea Printers	67
		Total	

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
35	153	1872	1361	..	1332	562	..	49	391	20	746
36	16	336	6	..	254	7	..	12	37	8	172
37	58	1259	190	8	758	400	..	254	158	12	462
38	50	1397	150	729	1626	..	..	659	133	40	770
39	81	355	134	6	521	..	..	13	229	30	950
40	66	1750	1632	6200	4013	7529	..	1329	..	..	5241
41	198	7515	3573	4529	3253	5637	..	25	4810	250	10569
42	134	1700	632	546	532	1652	..	338	515	16	914
	756	16184	7728	2018	17289	15787	..	2679	6263	371	19824
43	61	1531	1629	854	3280	219	..	538	436	36	2609
44	74	2939	3138	428	3277	2273	..	503	756	31	2466
45	120	6313	25445	1638	4244	29940	..	137	4783	89	8027
46	43	223	46	..	108	63	..	29	21	4	460
47	79	906	1598	..	1486	1664	..	28	439	30	2055
48	180	2783	3442	..	598	5247	..	35	214	15	827
	557	14695	35298	2920	12993	39406	..	1270	6649	205	16464
49	12	134	675	..	100	39	491	18	35	1	119
50	631	5362	63718	3466	678	681	66044	5404	300	17	1827
51	59	604	405	53	174	465	..	275	272	14	802
52	8	8430	18382	..	12180	11520	..	4780	..	..	6635
	710	14530	83180	3519	13132	12705	66535	10477	607	32	9383
53	77	392	..	13	95	63	..	329	210	6	357
54	204	8948	1605	500	391	6941	686	786	2488	64	4203
55	140	1062	1137	169	334	1186	..	471	762	18	1396
56	66	466	231	14	107	509	..	42	243	6	602
57	348	11645	6165	1420	1736	10732	..	5401	2878	47	6818
58	716	22668	..	7696	11863	13527	..	5329	11938	536	31169
59	70	1092	1867	209	140	2929	..	462	271	13	748
60	186	8769	6561	..	1783	12498	..	63	2490	71	4622
61	80	2484	2659	1538	346	5741	..	308	641	33	1967
62	380	6107	8452	634	3950	11022	..	816	2883	118	6693
63	27	526	..	63	105	156	..	222	271	7	561
64	109	741	313	271	120	385	..	739	135	10	738
65	198	1238	610	24	230	1555	..	14	403	18	858
66	103	319	886	21	148	1015	..	127	..	..	395
67	72	560	583	175	156	795	..	..	828	16	1040
	2776	68437	31069	12747	21504	69054	686	15109	26441	963	62167

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) Metal Workers.	Needles.....	aAlcester Needle Makers	35
	Watches	Andrews Watch Manufacturing (Coventry)	36
	"	Coventry Watch	37
	Cutlery	Sheffield Cutlery	38
	"	" Federated Cutlery	39
	"	b" Trade-unionists' Sheep Shear Manufac.	40
	Locks, &c.	Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	41
	Clog and Iron Sundries	Calderdale Clog Sundries Manufac. (Walsden)....	42
		Total	
(d) Wood Workers.	Cabinet Making, &c.	Bolton Cabinet Makers	43
	"	Bradford "	44
	"	Newcastle-on-Tyne Household Furnishing.....	45
	"	Midland Wood Workers	46
	Carriage Builders.....	Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights ..	47
	Ship Building, &c.	Medway Barge Builders and Carriers	48
		Total	
(e) Building, &c.	Building, &c.	Coventry Builders.....	49
	"	Lincoln Land and Building	50
	"	Oxford Builders.....	51
	"	bWood Workers Limited.....	52
		Total	
(f) Printing and Bookbinding.	Bookbinding	Bookbinders (London)	53
	Printing	Birmingham Printers	54
	"	Blackpool Union Printers	55
	"	Bristol Printers.....	56
	"	Co-operative Newspaper (Manchester)	57
	"	Co-operative Printing (Manchester)	58
	"	Derby Printers	59
	"	Garden City Press (Letchworth)	60
	"	Hull Printers	61
	"	Leicester Printers	62
	"	Long Eaton Printers	63
	"	Nottingham Printers	64
	"	bPlymouth Printers	65
	"	aPortsmouth Printers	66
	"	aSwansea Printers	67
		Total	

	Sales during the Year.	NET PROFIT: HOW DIVIDED.									
		Profits during the Year.	Loss during the Year.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
35	2920	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	410	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37	883	..	90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
38	1715	160	..	69	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
39	1632	60	..	15	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
40	11076	1121	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
41	21115	772	..	415	6½	178	0 4½	..	..	19	20
42	3946	238	..	84	5	25	0 6	91	0 6	..	5
	43700	2408	90	583	..	203	..	91	..	19	25
43	5450	175	..	57	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
44	5634	181	..	145	5	..	..	..	..	..	4
45	18277	138	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
46	902	..	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
47	4462	174	..	36	5	..	..	..	..	5	..
48	1962	..	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	36687	668	102	238	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
49	252	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
50	4683	395	..	345	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
51	1041	52	..	30	5	..	..	..	..	5	3
52	16952	323	..	354	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	22928	783	..	729	..	..	..	..	..	5	3
53	630	50	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54	9888	832	..	475	6½	143	0 9	107	0 4½	10	48
55	3056	287	..	53	5	..	..	..	..	..	3
56	1196	25	..	12	5	8	0 4	4	0 2	1	2
57	24999	1474	..	532	4½	..	..	..	..	..	89
58	88105	9792	..	844	7½	483	0 6	819	0 6	..	421
59	2179	331	..	52	5	34	1 0	102	1 0	9	11
60	10251	122	..	434	5	..	..	..	..	2	..
61	3380	45	..	156	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
62	17529	831	..	428	5	114	0 4	154	0 2	35	52
63	1116	126	..	40	8	35	1 3	35	0 10	6	1
64	1401	51	..	18	6	7	0 2	10	0 2	3	7
65	2771	149	..	56	5	29	0 8	22	0 2	7	..
66	631	75	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
67	1997	..	49	12	5	18	1 0	10	0 6	..	..
	169129	14190	49	3137	..	876	..	1263	..	73	634

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—(continued).			
(e) Corn Milling.	Corn Milling	Colne Vale Corn Millers	68
	"	Derwent Flour Mills	69
	"	Hallfax Flour	70
	"	Northallerton Corn Mill	71
	"	Sherston Milling	72
	"	Sowerby Bridge Flour	73
		Total	
(h) Baking.	Baking	Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour	74
	"	Codnor Park and Selston Baking	75
	"	Colne Valley Baking	76
	"	Cymmer, Corrwg, and Gwynfa Baking	77
	"	^b Greenwich Bread and Flour	78
	"	New Swindon Productive	79
		Total	
(i) Laundries.	Laundries	Dewsbury	80
	"	Hyde	81
	"	Keighley	82
	"	Manchester and District	83
	"	Newcastle	84
	"	North-East Lancashire	85
		Total	
(g) Various.	Bass Dressers	London Bass Dressers	86
	General	Brandsby Agricultural Trading	87
	Grocery Sundries, &c.	Co-operative Sundries (Droylsden)	88
	"	^a Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	89
	Mineral Water Manufacturers	Licensed Trade Supply (Coventry)	90
	Umbrellas	^b Derby Umbrella Manufacturers	91
		Total	
SCOTLAND.			
(A) Cotton and Wool.—Woollen & Cotton		Paisley Manufacturing	92
(F) Printing and Bookbinding.—Printing		Edinburgh Printing	93
" " "		Glasgow Civic Press	94
" " "		" Scottish Newspaper	95
		Total	
(H) Baking		Abernethy Baking	96
"		Auchterarder Baking	97
"		Bainsford and Grahamston Baking	98
"		^b Burntisland Bread	99
"		^b Carronshore Baking	100
"		Chapelhall Federated Baking	101
"		Glasgow United Baking (Glasgow)	102

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1914.

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	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
68	457	16931	7602	1500	8411	10449	..	4186	10076	34	2438
69	9	18276	20861	..	9701	12769	..	15788	1883	45	4083
70	919	96302	..	2290	32700	27675	..	18458	32025	84	7710
71	500	1716	816	..	501	3159	..	32	2295	7	477
72	34	381	566	67	101	666	..	177	327	4	97
73	1600	90263	..	1966	42068	39566	..	5062	15697	92	6728
	3119	228869	29845	5823	93482	94284	..	43703	62303	266	21533
74	594	3247	1916	200	1086	5224	190	861	205	32	2365
75	10	800	..	28	155	640	..	60	..	3	278
76	47	1850	1174	36	150	1672	..	115	267	7	233
77	9	452	605	210	165	795	..	197	169	7	622
78	80	912	..	130	46	905	..	91	..	..	235
79	3014	4787	1135	882	1175	4086	1071	278	2812	25	1650
	3714	12048	4830	1486	2777	13322	1261	1602	3453	74	5883
80	10	3352	539	222	89	4180	..	102	323	48	2128
81	9	2828	800	..	285	3052	..	467	18	52	2265
82	17	4012	3390	..	165	7185	..	74	158	40	1794
83	413	19750	..	..	321	17993	..	8297	378	205	8013
84	53	15411	22200	1854	512	22682	..	16486	1441	259	7684
85	13	4509	2300	100	220	6875	..	174	30	63	3458
	115	49862	29229	2176	1592	61967	..	20600	2348	667	25342
86	57	204	244	1829	597	..	..	1388	722	23	1350
87	236	3337	1451	205	2223	1522	..	472	3076	14	1165
88	525	20589	6799	9668	12570	13428	..	3127	5654	150	9665
89	135	1091	1083	135	1854	875	..	207	1205	8	511
90	148	1566	943	600	250	2208	..	1254	77	9	705
91	37	270	111	9	297	20	..	207	..	..	243
	1138	27057	10631	6446	17791	18053	..	6655	10734	204	19639
92	5423	52398	78919	8252	25820	38963	6606	65910	10917	500	25489
93	154	10000	7904	3000	511	14012	1500	846	4585	78	6470
94	200	1834	536	1650	168	1075	..	1692	1467	25	1694
95	68	209	121	200	..	..	..	1159	500	2	384
	422	12043	8561	4850	679	15057	1500	3697	6542	105	8548
96	193	193	37	..	111	..	356	550	58	4	217
97	486	879	975	125	422	179	698	1248	127	8	726
98	3652	34479	596	1906	1570	11098	4202	22074	993	85	6407
99	272	1384	..	..	101	602	..	789	..	..	880
100	308	2349	..	10	159	1314	..	1265	..	..	422
101	47	1029	8903	836	1326	4200	276	6261	259	30	2736
102	4207	206363	270820	86276	48605	238172	7178	276512	18801	1635	109903

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) Corn Milling.	Corn Milling	Colne Vale Corn Millers	68
	"	Derwent Flour Mills	69
	"	Halifax Flour.....	70
	"	Northallerton Corn Mill	71
	"	Sherston Milling	72
	"	Sowerby Bridge Flour.....	73
		Total	
(H) Baking.	Baking	Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour.....	74
	"	Codnor Park and Selston Baking	75
	"	Colne Valley Baking	76
	"	Cymmer, Corrwg, and Gwynfi Baking	77
	"	^b Greenwich Bread and Flour.....	78
	"	New Swindon Productive	79
		Total	
(I) Laundries.	Laundries	Dewsbury.....	80
	"	Hyde	81
	"	Kelghley	82
	"	Manchester and District.....	83
	"	Newcastle	84
	"	North-East Lancashire	85
		Total	
(J) Various.	Bass Dressers.....	London Bass Dressers	86
	General.....	Brandsby Agricultural Trading	87
	Grocery Sundries, &c.....	Co-operative Sundries (Droylsden)	88
	"	^a Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	89
	Mineral Water Manufacturers	Licensed Trade Supply (Coventry)	90
Umbrellas	^b Derby Umbrella Manufacturers	91	
		Total	
SCOTLAND.			
(A) Cotton and Wool—Woollen & Cotton		Paisley Manufacturing	92
(F) Printing and Bookbinding—Printing		Edinburgh Printing.....	93
" " "		Glasgow Civic Press	94
" " "		" Scottish Newspaper	95
		Total	
(H) Baking	Baking	Abernethy Baking.....	96
	"	Auchterarder Baking	97
	"	Bainsford and Grahamston Baking	98
	"	^b Burntisland Bread	99
	"	^b Carronshore Baking.....	100
	"	Chapelhall Federated Baking	101
	"	Glasgow United Baking (Glasgow)	102

NET PROFIT: HOW DIVIDED.											
	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Loss during the Year.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
68	118723	7805	..	833	5	65	0 5½	2725	0 5	1	50
69	144738	1932	..	913	5	..	..	1019	0 2	..	..
70	411674	12491	..	4017	4½	..	..	5399	0 4	18	183
71	8170	139	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72	3787	118	..	18	5	..	..	30	0 6	..	3
73	345996	11103	..	3777	4½	..	..	4804	..	..	148
	1033068	33558	..	9558	..	65	..	13477	..	19	384
74	22019	3924	..	237	7½	..	..	3396	3 4	..	63
75	2030	..	26	40	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
76	3010	..	125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
77	4684	128	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
78	1173	56	..	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
79	22827	4896	..	236	5	..	..	9620	3 6	..	50
	55743	8934	151	574	..	..	..	7016	..	..	115
80	4352	895	..	331	5	..	..	155	0 9	..	..
81	5199	237	..	106	3½	..	..	..	..	..	11
82	4189	218	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
83	17100	4101	..	623	5	..	..	2624	3 4½	..	..
84	24632	7797	..	741	5	..	..	1420	1 0	..	..
85	6562	467	..	225	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	62034	13715	..	2126	..	..	..	4199	..	..	11
86	5162	395	..	26	5	322	5 0	..	..	9	34
87	24689	246	..	160	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
88	81931	3088	..	1535	7½	681	1 6	2000	0 6	20	89
89	10550	207	..	46	..	16	..	..	..	4	4
90	2664	524	..	76	5	15	..	..	..	..	18
91	927	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	125923	4472	..	1843	..	1034	..	2000	..	33	145
92	160843	16517	..	2558	5	1195	0 8½	19342	0 8½	53	432
93	11704	590	..	550	5½	74	0 3½	..	..	..	19
94	4533	740	..	119	5	..	..	..	..	..	10
95	4157	159	..	10	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
	20894	1489	..	679	..	74	..	..	..	..	29
96	2578	270	..	..	..	..	..	333	3 0	..	..
97	4036	738	..	83	..	..	..	655	3 4	..	..
98	54208	10856	..	1254	4½	..	..	8954	3 9½	50	109
99	1925	189	..	69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
100	9468	841	..	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
101	27060	5436	..	53	5	..	..	5360	4 0½	..	34
102	714746	79923	..	9987	5	9030	1 8	56636	1 8	1200	1200

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
<i>SCOTLAND—Continued.</i>		
(ii) Baking	Hamilton Baking	103
"	Kettle Baking	104
"	Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	105
"	Stenhousemuir Baking	106
	Total	
(i) Laundry	Scottish Laundry (Barrhead)	107
<i>ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
(A) Corsets	Desborough	108
Cotton Cloth, &c.	Bury	109
"	Radcliffe ..	110
Flannel	Littleborough	111
Hosiery	Huthwaite	112
Ready-made Clothing	Broughton	113
"	Leeds	114
Shirts	Broughton	115
Tailoring, &c.	Pelaw	116
Worsted and Wool	Batley	117
(B) Boots and Shoes	Heckmondwike	118
"	Leicester	119
"	Rushden	120
(C) Machines, &c.	Keighley	121
Hardware	Dudley	122
Tin, Iron, and Zinc	Birtley	123
(D) Wood Workers, Cabinet Making ..	Broughton	124
"	Pelaw	125
(F) Printing, &c.	Leicester	126
"	Longsight	127
"	Pelaw	128
(G) Corn Milling	Dunston	129
"	Silvertown	130
"	Manchester Sun Mill	131
"	Oldham Star Mill	132
"	Avonmouth ..	133
(J) Various—Soap, &c.	Dunston	134
" Soap, Candles, &c.	Irlam	135
" Soap	Silvertown	136
" Lard, &c.	West Hartlepool	137
" Biscuits, Sweets, &c.	Crumpsall	138
" Preserves, Pickles, &c.	Middleton	139
" Tobacco	Manchester	140
" Brushes	Leeds	141
" Paints	Rochdale	142
" Farms and Creameries ..	Roden, Marden, Wisbech, Witbgill, &c.	143
	Total	
<i>SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
A) Woollen and Clothing	Shieldhall (Glasgow) and Ettrick Mills, Selkirk ..	144
(B) Leather, Boots and Shoes	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	145
(D) Cabinet, Brush, Saddlery, & Tinware	"	146
(F) Printing and Bookbinding	"	147
(G) Corn Milling, &c.—Chancelot, Junction, and Regent Flour Mills ..	Edinburgh and Glasgow	148
(J) Various—		
Preserves, Confections, Chemicals,	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	149
Pickles, and Coffee	"	150
Tobacco	"	151
Miscellaneous	Grangemouth	152
Soap		
	Total	

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
103	h7	7022	31591	2187	4080	9783	743	26689	62	76	5709
104	537	1599	40	210	118	618	..	1540	105	11	68
105	335	660	..	100	128	337	..	536	7	4	27
106	940	9218	154	220	1050	4046	1065	3714	446	18	1437
	6944	265180	313116	91870	57670	270349	14518	341178	20858	1871	128292
107	74	3135	11544	2215	501	11083	..	5688	540	281	10756
108	28760	..	16302	10500	..	..	..	343	11640
109	47883	..	20805	19718	..	..	..	344	18177
110	36814	..	15399	35265	..	..	..	192	8715
111	16648	..	8498	15594	..	..	..	96	5015
112	98093	..	36908	35272	..	..	..	657	31594
113	34415	..	11899	7217	..	..	..	719	33802
114	51501	..	21195	29192	..	..	..	1216	54341
115	57406	..	34296	11669	..	..	..	797	28468
116	24838	..	9770	4337	..	..	..	356	15764
117	44355	..	23492	10235	..	..	..	259	14785
118	94765	..	66906	25654	..	..	..	616	81895
119	154819	..	151821	8628	..	..	..	2172	122014
120	74201	..	44663	22411	..	..	..	483	23248
121	14169	..	6030	6002	..	..	..	110	8095
122	13237	..	4983	7672	..	..	..	160	9552
123	4129	..	1544	3014	..	..	..	36	2936
124	18633	..	14026	1995	..	..	..	194	15962
125	19679	..	16643	7850	..	..	..	297	20819
126	27268	..	6510	19256	..	..	..	187	9720
127	88063	..	32253	12364	..	..	..	1181	71518
128	19957	..	5312	7096	..	..	..	191	9483
129	277199	..	132128	74062	..	..	..	180	25900
130	184963	..	143955	24182	..	..	..	115	19288
131	420813	..	114281	296381	..	..	..	343	23387
132	86658	..	40018	28701	..	..	..	98	9443
133	208764	..	131067	55993	..	..	..	102	10110
134	57940	..	33490	35118	..	..	..	163	9375
135	182404	..	122331	51636	..	..	..	998	58529
136	70158	..	43322	34219	..	..	..	205	12245
137	23793	..	21207	3850	..	..	..	24	1841
138	53871	..	14805	18432	..	..	..	579	29498
139	297491	..	166559	66531	..	..	..	592	42435
140	176765	..	117432	19566	..	..	..	717	36505
141	20410	..	11767	9358	..	..	..	245	13429
142	5233	..	4721	..	..	..	..	14	1241
143	80922	..	14256	77730	..	..	..	167	9275
	x4843	x365093
	3116057	..	1660594	1096760	..	..	..	19991	1209887
144	141754	..	85108	55798	..	..	..	2262	90785
145	69561	..	73969	16364	..	..	..	1853	71660
146	47858	..	27280	24790	..	..	..	448	29512
147	45932	..	12059	35529	..	..	..	490	24448
148	419856	..	407686	120468	..	..	..	254	22619
149	58443	..	41058	23284	..	..	..	658	30970
150	54247	..	55016	860	..	..	..	195	8011
151	55663	..	18596	36878	..	..	..	344	19648
152	31420	..	15767	16820	..	..	..	130	8549
	x104021
	924734	..	737539	330791	..	..	..	6134	410223

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY	
<i>SCOTLAND—Continued.</i>		
(u) Baking	Hamilton Baking	103
"	Kettle Baking	104
"	Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	105
"	Stenhousemuir Baking	106
	Total	
(l) Laundry	Scottish Laundry (Barrhead)	107
<i>ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
(A) Corsets	Desborough	108
Cotton, Cloth, &c.	Bury	109
"	Radcliffe	110
Flannel	Littleborough	111
Hosiery	Hnthwaite	112
Ready-made Clothing	Broughton	113
"	Leeds	114
Shirts	Broughton	115
Tailoring, &c.	Pelaw	116
Worsted and Wool	Batley	117
(B) Boots and Shoes	Heckmondwike	118
"	Leicester	119
"	Rushden	120
(C) Machines, &c.	Keighley	121
Hardware	Dudley	122
Tin, Iron, and Zinc	Birtley	123
(D) Wood Workers, Cabinet Making	Broughton	124
"	Pelaw	125
(F) Printing, &c.	Leicester	126
"	Longsight	127
"	Pelaw	128
(G) Corn Milling	Dunston	129
"	Silvertown	130
"	Manchester Sun Mill	131
"	Oldham Star Mill	132
"	Avonmouth	133
(J) Various—Soap, &c.	Dunston	134
" Soap, Candles, &c.	Irlam	135
" Soap	Silvertown	136
" Lard, &c.	West Hartlepool	137
" Biscuits, Sweets, &c.	Crumpsall	138
" Preserves, Pickles, &c.	Middleton	139
" Tobacco	Manchester	140
" Brushes	Leeds	141
" Paints	Rochdale	142
" Farms and Creameries	Roden, Marden, Wisbech, Withgill, &c.	143
	Total	
<i>SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY</i>		
(A) Woollen and Clothing	Shieldhall (Glasgow) and Ettrick Mills, Selkirk ..	144
(B) Leather, Boots and Shoes	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	145
(D) Cabinet, Brush, Saddlery, & Tinware	"	146
(F) Printing and Bookbinding	"	147
(O) Corn Milling, &c.—Chancelot, Junction, and Regent Flour Mills	Edinburgh and Glasgow	148
(J) Various—		
Preserves, Confections, Chemicals, Pickles, and Coffee	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	149
Tobacco	"	150
Miscellaneous	"	151
Soap	Grangemouth	152
	Total	

NET PROFIT: HOW DIVIDED.

	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Loss during the Year.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
103	£ 52687	£ 5251	£ ..	£ 3130	5	£ ..	s. d. ..	£ 5441	s. d. 2 1½	£ ..	£ 80
104	6005	1073	..	76	5	..	..	940	3 6	..	10
105	1960	348	..	17	2½	..	..	244	2 8	..	3
106	13545	2514	..	355	4½	..	..	2079	3 3	51	29
	882218	107439	..	12268	..	9030	..	80642	..	1301	1465
107	24003	3264	..	155	5	..	..	2700	2 6	14	69
108	38201	2570	..	777	..	..	..	..	0 5	..	..
109	116581	2533	..	1411	..	..	..	..		..	..
110	55852	1169	..	969	..	..	..	..		..	..
111	33966	1131	..	538	..	..	..	..		..	..
112	188867	4692	..	2986	..	..	..	..		..	..
113	65069	1229	..	927	..	..	..	..		..	..
114	108920	2864	..	1459	..	..	..	..		..	..
115	170555	5045	..	1489	..	..	..	..		..	..
116	55846	781	..	705	..	..	..	..		..	..
117	63833	2452	..	1296	..	..	..	..		..	..
118	150908	2784	..	2563	..	..	..	..		..	..
119	452042	10229	..	4299	..	..	..	..		..	..
120	117109	2307	..	2035	..	..	..	..		..	..
121	30086	3043	..	404	..	..	..	..		..	..
122	32783	2202	..	359	..	..	..	..		..	..
123	6893	514	..	126	..	..	..	..		..	..
124	37342	486	..	530	..	..	..	..		..	..
125	48171	542	..	533	..	..	..	..		..	..
126	32624	849	..	778	..	..	..	..		..	..
127	188297	4268	..	2582	..	..	..	..		..	..
128	27511	415	..	581	..	..	..	..		..	..
129	934236	11670	..	8363	..	..	..	..		..	..
130	690219	7217	..	5038	..	..	..	..		..	..
131	1434256	24601	..	9777	..	..	..	..		..	..
132	418419	5334	..	2307	..	..	..	..		..	..
133	658953	8793	..	5934	..	..	..	..		..	..
134	182105	14366	..	1906	..	..	..	..		..	..
135	338241	23921	..	5715	..	..	..	..		..	..
136	224331	13946	..	2221	..	..	..	..		..	..
137	144272	4121	..	616	..	..	..	..		..	..
138	227876	18690	..	1608	..	..	..	..		..	..
139	471096	23728	..	8210	..	..	..	..		..	..
140	754768	3348	..	5204	..	..	..	..		..	..
141	41081	846	..	592	..	..	..	..		..	..
142	10322	401	..	171	..	..	..	..		..	..
143	57672	2064	..	2324	..	..	..	..		..	..

	9109318	215151	..	87333	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
144	270533	12665	..	5962	..	..	0 8½	..	0 8½	..	..
145	328667	11024	..	2892	..	..		..		..	..
146	89999	4372	..	2003	..	..		..		..	..
147	78768	5236	..	1928	..	..		..		..	..
148	1095242	49380	..	17401	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
149	268717	13244	..	2527	..	..	0 8½	..	0 8½	..	..
150	238061	3496	..	2294	..	..		..		..	..
151	304484	11252	..	2326	..	..		..		..	..
152	138576	11806	..	1313	..	..		..		..	..

	2807047	122475	..	38646	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

		LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.					
No. of Societies.		No. of Members	Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	House Property.	All other Investments.
England and Wales	91	24017	654862	422596	121528	479290	464548	70536	187013
Scotland	16	12863	332751	412140	107187	84670	385482	22624	416473
Ireland	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
English Wholesale Society	1	..	..	3116057	..	1680594	1096760	..	..
Scottish Wholesale Society	1	..	..	924734	..	737539	330791	..	..
Total		36880	987613	4975527	228715	2962093	2227551	93160	603496

NET PROFIT: HOW DIVIDED.									
		Profits for 1914.	Loss for 1914.	To Capital.	To Labour.	To Purchaser.	Subscriptions.		
				Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	
No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Trade during the Year.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 7968	440470	2713169	148083	31384	15745	46455	1083	2854	
2 2757	173085	1087458	128709	15660	10299	96684	1968	1995	
3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 19991	1209887	9100318	215151	87333	..	..	..	..
5 6131	410223	2807047	122475	38646	..	..	..	..
36850	2233665	15716992	614418	173023	26044	143130	2451	4849	

Exclusive of the Productive Departments of the Wholesale Societies).

Exclusive of the Productive Departments of the Wholesale Societies).

[illegible]

Detailed List of Subscriptions Received from Societies

FROM 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

I R E L A N D .

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
340	Armagh and District	1	15	5
415	Ballymena and Harryville ..	2	3	3
12300	Belfast	64	1	2
116	Callan Co-op. Agricultural..	0	12	1
90	Coalisland	0	9	4
621	Cork, City of.....	3	4	8
109	Drumaness	0	11	0
800	Dublin Industrial	4	3	4
180	„ University	0	18	9
—	Dundalk	1	11	3
213	Enniskillen	1	2	2
66	Greenore	0	6	3
107	Inchicore	0	11	0
—	Irish Builders	0	5	0
—	Irish Agricul. C. Wholesale..	3	0	0
—	„ „ Organisation..	4	0	0
—	„ Co-operative Agency ..	0	10	6
110	Larne	0	11	6
1450	Lisburn	7	11	0
160	Lucan	0	16	8
—	Millbrook	0	5	0
244	Newtownards	1	6	0
—	Ochilmore	0	8	9
940	Portadown	1	15	5
393	Queenstown	3	4	4
65	Rosslare Harbour	0	6	9
—	Sligo	0	5	0
18119		£105	15	7

M I D L A N D S E C T I O N .

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
3188	Alcester	15	12	6
153	„ Needle Makers	1	10	0
18	Andrews C. Watch Manu- facturing, Coventry	0	5	0
786	Annesley Colliery	4	1	10
359	„ Woodhouse	1	17	5
467	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	7	11
753	Atherstone	3	18	5
186	Barrow-on-Soar	0	19	4
1160	Barwell	6	0	10
642	Bidford	3	2	6
23900	Birmingham Industrial	121	7	1
186	„ Printers	1	5	0
68	Blakesley	0	7	1
114	Blue Lias	0	15	0
1337	Bolsover	6	5	3
2143	Boston	11	3	4
42	Bourton	0	4	5
325	Bridgnorth	1	16	0
129	Broughton Astley	0	13	9
2000	Bulwell	10	8	4

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
504	Burbage	2	12	6
688	Burton Latimer	3	11	8
8432	Burton-on-Trent	45	0	5
2750	Cannock and District	14	6	6
293	Cheadle (Staffs.)	0	19	9
1915	Cinderhill	9	18	0
825	Clay Cross	3	8	9
4911	Coalville	25	9	4
869	Codnor Park and Ironville ..	4	10	6
10	„ and Selston Baking ..	0	5	0
107	Cogenhoe	0	11	2
—	Co-operative Productive Federation	1	0	0
180	Cosby	0	18	9
12	Coventry Builders	0	5	0
152	Coventry Licensed Trade Supply	1	10	0
18276	Coventry Perseverance	95	3	9
60	„ Watch Manufact'g ..	0	12	6
132	Croft	0	18	10
284	Crompton Boot Manufact'rs.	2	0	0
890	Daventry	4	6	6
80	Denton	0	8	4
28222	Derby	147	0	0
66	„ Printers	0	15	0
38	„ Umbrella Manufacts ..	0	7	6
1680	Desborough	8	10	10
6279	Dudley	15	0	0
764	Earls Barton	3	19	7
210	Ellesmere and District	1	1	0
895	Enderby	4	13	3
—	Federated Growers	0	10	0
253	Fenny Compton	1	6	4
725	Finedon	3	15	6
28	„ Boot and Shoe	1	0	0
440	Fleckney	2	5	10
4421	Gainsborough	23	0	0
247	Glenfield	1	5	8
—	„ Progress Boot & Shoe ..	2	1	6
2608	Grantham	13	0	0
90	Great Glen	0	9	0
6945	Great Grimsby	35	18	4
1756	Great Wigston	9	2	11
158	Groby	0	16	6
166	Hackleton	0	17	3
378	Harbury	1	19	6
153	Harleston	0	16	0
565	Harpole	2	18	10
261	Hathern	1	7	2
406	Higham Ferrers	2	1	8
240	„ Boot & Shoe	1	12	0
160	Highley	0	15	7
2768	Hinckley	15	2	6
108	Hollington	0	11	3
3583	Hucknall Torkard	18	13	4
153	Huncote	0	16	0

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
607	Huntingdon	3	4	7
1019	Ideal Clothiers—Wellingboro'	6	8	6
4900	Ilkeston	22	7	10
384	Irchester	1	19	2
997	Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale..	5	3	10
573	Irthlingborough	2	19	8
7200	Kettering	37	10	0
699	" Boot and Shoe....	6	0	0
1364	" Clothing.....	8	10	0
381	" Corset Manufac... ..	3	0	0
269	" Union Boot & Shoe	2	5	0
250	Keyworth	1	5	0
2737	Kidderminster	14	5	0
120	Kirby Muxloe	0	12	6
2208	Kirkby-in-Ashfield	16	1	6
206	" Manuftrs.	1	5	0
4715	Langley Mill and Aldercar ..	25	1	9
580	Langwith	3	0	5
399	Lea and Holloway	2	1	10
19489	Leicester	101	9	7
530	" Anchor Boot & Shoe ..	4	10	0
—	" " Tenants	0	12	6
961	" " Boot & Shoe Equit.	8	0	0
76	" " Carriage Builders..	0	12	0
—	" " Co-op. Small Holdings	0	10	6
135	" " Morning Star Sundries.....	0	12	0
366	" " Printing	2	8	0
179	" " Self-Help Bt. & Shoe ..	1	10	0
14489	Lincoln Equitable	75	9	5
624	" " Land and Building..	3	5	4
2162	Lockhurst Lane	11	5	3
888	Long Buckley	4	13	6
8475	Long Eaton	44	1	5
27	" " Printing	0	5	0
674	Loughborough	3	9	9
374	Lowdham	1	19	0
336	Malvern	1	15	0
9900	Mansfield and Sutton	51	11	3
2920	Market Harborough	12	1	8
160	Markfield	0	16	8
222	Mayfield	1	3	2
1297	Melton Mowbray	6	15	4
173	Midland Boot Manufacturers ..	1	5	6
49	" " Wood Workers	0	5	0
370	Milford	1	18	6
321	Moulton	1	13	6
965	Mount Sorrel	1	18	0
171	Napton	0	17	6
2011	Netherfield	10	9	6
2018	Newark	10	10	0
190	Northamptonshire Productive ..	1	10	0
5863	Northampton	27	18	8
18	" " I.L.P. Boot	0	5	0
19757	Nottingham	71	13	0
109	" " Printers.....	0	15	0
5947	Nuneaton	30	19	4
290	Oadby	1	10	2
2021	Oakengates	10	10	6
15184	Peterborough	79	1	8
750	Pinxton	3	18	1
62	Pitsford	0	6	6
—	Planet Mutual Insurance	0	10	0
1171	Pleasley and Pleasley Hill ..	6	2	0
321	Prees	1	15	0
198	Ratby	1	0	7
1060	Raunds Distributive	5	10	0
1379	Retford	8	8	0
159	Ringstead Distributive	0	17	6
24	" " Unity	0	5	0
10052	Ripley	52	7	2

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
903	Rothwell	4	14	0
220	Rothwell "Avalon" Boot and Shoe.....	1	10	0
572	Ruddington	2	19	7
6480	Rugby	32	14	0
1200	Rugeley	6	6	0
2259	Rushden	11	11	6
52	St. Crispin (Raunds)	1	1	0
760	St. Ives (Hunts.)	3	19	2
92	Saxby	0	9	6
3400	Scunthorpe	17	14	2
703	Selston	3	13	2
1151	Shepshed	6	0	0
3100	Shrewsbury	14	11	6
95	Sibley "Excelsior" Boot....	0	12	0
280	Skegness	1	9	2
5773	Soho	27	12	1
483	Southwell	2	11	6
1011	Spalding	5	6	0
198	Sperope Boot and Shoe Manufacturers.....	1	11	6
2487	Stafford	24	10	0
1419	Stanton Hill	7	4	10
2420	Stapleford and Sandiacre	12	12	0
240	Stoney Stanton, New	1	5	0
4650	Tamworth	23	14	9
7390	Ten Acres and Stirchley	38	9	9
410	Thrapston	2	2	8
44	Tibberton	0	4	7
1248	Tibshelf	6	10	0
798	Tipton	3	12	11
9367	Walsall	48	9	4
198	" Locks & Cart Gear	1	10	0
231	Warsop Vale	1	4	1
413	Warwick	3	7	3
1012	Wednesbury and Dist., New ..	5	5	6
2822	Wellingborough Midland	13	13	0
168	West Haddon	0	17	6
500	Whitechurch (Salop)	2	12	1
297	Wigston Hosiers	1	15	0
410	Wirksworth	2	5	9
440	Wisbech Phoenix	2	4	9
608	Wollaston	3	3	4
3676	Wolverhampton	19	2	11
3857	Worcester, New	20	1	11
246	Yardley Hastings	1	5	6

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NORTHERN SECTION.

No. of Members	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
370	Allendale	1	18	6
349	Alston	1	2	6
1800	Amble	9	7	6
7156	Annfield Plain	88	0	0
4211	Ashington Industrial	21	18	8
844	" Equitable	4	8	0
1869	Aspatria	9	13	4
910	Backworth	4	14	2
1110	Barnard Castle	5	15	3
560	Beaside	2	16	0
2660	Bedlington	13	17	0
140	Belsay	0	15	0
4348	Birtley	22	13	0
17863	Bishop Auckland	93	0	8
9745	Blaydon-on-Tyne	50	15	0
1744	Blyth Central	9	1	8
2841	Boldon Industrial	14	16	0
1507	Brandon and Byshottles	7	16	11

Northern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
239	Brandsby Dairy.....	2	10	10
960	Broomhill	5	0	0
551	Cambois	2	18	0
9613	Carlisle	44	17	0
264	Castle Howard.....	1	7	6
5084	Chester-le-Street	26	9	10
463	Choppington.....	2	11	4
6114	Cleator Moor.....	31	17	0
222	Coanwood	1	3	3
2882	Consett	15	0	4
49	Co-op. Laundries Association	0	15	0
2149	Cornforth and Coxhoe	11	9	8
520	Coxlodge and Fawdon	2	13	0
426	Craghead and Holmside	2	3	0
4289	Cramlington	22	5	9
4900	Crook	25	4	7
400	Dalston	2	1	8
11204	Darlington.....	58	7	1
9	Derwent Flour Mill	2	2	0
2165	Durham	11	6	4
705	Easington Lane	3	13	5
3657	East Cleveland	17	19	4
1476	Egremont	7	14	0
780	Esh	4	1	3
686	Felling Shore	3	11	1
103	Felton	0	10	8
367	Fourstones and Newburgh..	1	18	3
273	Framwellgate Moor	1	8	5
11789	Gateshead	61	8	0
—	Gilsland Convalescent Homes Association	0	15	0
285	Greenhead	1	9	8
309	Grosmont	1	12	2
673	Guide Post	3	10	6
1446	Guisborough	7	10	7
899	Haltwhistle	4	13	8
9148	Hartlepool	47	12	11
3007	Haswell	13	10	0
321	Haydon Bridge	2	8	9
430	Hebburn Colliery	2	3	4
949	Hedgeley	3	7	8
2115	Hetton Downs	10	10	5
401	Hexham and Acomb	4	2	6
80	Houghton	0	8	4
417	Howick	2	3	5
6148	Jarrow and Hebburn.....	34	0	5
760	Keswick	3	19	2
381	Kirkby Stephen	1	19	7
464	Lazonby	2	8	4
2250	Leadgate	11	14	0
369	Low Moorsley	1	18	5
684	Malton and Norton	8	11	9
343	Marsden Industrial	1	15	5
365	Marske-by-the-Sea	2	1	6
4676	Maryport	24	4	3
19321	Middlesbrough	97	0	3
1318	Middleton-in-Teesdale	6	17	4
1696	Murton Colliery	8	10	9
391	Naworth Collieries	2	0	9
109	Nenthead	0	11	6
1760	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	9	0	2
2372	Newhottle	12	8	11
1088	New Brancepeth	5	8	2
25445	Newcastle-on-Tyne	132	10	6
120	„ H'sehold Furnish'g	1	0	0
739	„ St. Anthony's	3	17	0
186	New Delaval	4	12	4
763	Northallerton and District ..	3	19	6
—	Northern Section Educational Committees' Association ..	0	10	0
2646	North Shields	13	5	8
108	Otterburn	0	11	8

Northern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
600	Pegswood	3	2	6
464	Pelton Fell	2	7	8
1368	Penrith	7	3	0
458	Pickering and District	2	7	8
65	Pioneer Fishing—N. Shields	0	10	0
1331	Pittington	6	18	8
415	Radcliffe	2	3	4
11097	Ryhope and Silksworth	55	5	10
3531	Seaham Harbour	18	6	8
236	Sea Houses & N. Sunderland	1	4	6
1987	Seaton Delaval	10	4	11
293	Seghill	1	10	6
3194	Sherburn Hill	16	12	8
1581	Skelton	6	5	0
287	South Hetton Amicable	1	9	11
3496	South Shields	18	3	0
1607	Stanhope and Weardale.....	6	14	0
1180	Station Town	6	2	11
14683	Stockton-on-Tees	76	9	0
15793	Sunderland	50	0	0
846	Swalwell	4	7	6
592	Tantobie	3	1	8
222	Tebay	1	3	0
465	Thirsk	2	5	8
1742	Throckley and District	9	3	8
157	Togston Terrace & Broomhill	0	16	2
1560	Tow Law	8	2	6
1993	Tudhoe Colliery	10	7	4
2850	Tweedside	14	17	0
1750	Tyne Dock	9	2	4
2003	Walker-on-Tyne	10	4	4
5670	Wallsend	29	10	0
1545	West Cornforth	8	0	11
1538	West Pelton	8	1	1
4254	West Stanley	22	3	2
3700	West Wylam and Prudhoe ..	19	0	3
1234	Whithy	6	8	0
119	Whitfield	0	12	5
384	Widdrington	2	0	0
336	Wigton	1	15	0
2188	Willington	11	8	0
1577	„ Quay and Howden	8	4	2
1234	Windy Nook	6	13	5
2300	Workington Beehive	10	11	0
2218	„ Industrial	11	11	0

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NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
9445	Accrington and Church	49	5	7
745	„ Provident	3	17	6
323	Addingham	1	13	5
825	Adlington	4	5	11
408	Ainsworth Industrial	2	2	6
277	„ New Road	1	8	10
445	Airedale Worsted Manufac..	4	10	0
398	Allerton	2	0	8
361	Ambleside	2	5	10
5798	Ashton-under-Lyne	30	4	0
3421	Bacup	17	16	4
700	Bagsdale	3	12	11
373	Bakewell	3	19	2
690	Bamber Bridge	3	12	0
562	Bamfurlong	2	17	9
278	Bangor	1	9	0
110	Barkisland	0	11	6
1714	Barnoldswick	8	18	6
39691	Barnsley	206	14	6
564	Barrowford Industrial	2	18	9

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
12537	Barrow-in-Furness.....	63	19	3
5590	Batley.....	29	0	0
849	Battysford Self-Help.....	1	16	4
188	Becston.....	0	18	9
280	Bentham.....	1	9	2
641	Beverley.....	3	7	8
616	Billington and Whalley.....	3	3	4
8921	Bingley.....	20	15	0
11947	Birkenhead.....	53	0	7
3900	Birkenshaw.....	17	1	10
2119	Birstall.....	11	0	8
4150	Blackburn Industrial.....	21	12	4
4405	" Daisyfield.....	22	18	4
3608	" Grimshaw Park.....	18	15	10
6036	Blackley.....	81	9	0
9107	Blackpool.....	47	8	8
142	" Union Printers.....	1	5	0
37969	Bolton.....	195	17	1
60	" Cabinet Makers.....	0	10	0
75	Bradford.....	0	12	0
22405	" (City of).....	115	7	2
8932	Brighouse.....	43	0	0
29006	Brightside and Carbrook.....	151	1	5
384	Brockholes.....	2	0	2
186	Brooksbottoms.....	0	19	5
452	Brymbo.....	2	7	0
519	Bryn Gates.....	2	6	10
712	Buckley.....	3	2	6
17803	Burnley.....	92	14	6
313	" Self-Help.....	2	10	0
8875	Burslem.....	46	4	0
13520	Bury.....	70	0	0
399	Buttershaw.....	1	15	4
1895	Butt Lane.....	9	17	6
127	Calderdale Clog Sundries.....	1	0	0
1868	Carnforth.....	10	0	0
3702	Castleford Industrial.....	19	5	7
1026	Cefn and District.....	5	6	10
4458	Chester.....	23	4	4
2900	Chesterfield.....	15	2	0
689	Chirk Green.....	6	10	2
3218	Chorley.....	16	15	0
525	Churwell.....	2	14	8
712	Clayton.....	3	14	2
2813	Clayton-le-Moors.....	12	1	0
5000	Cleckheaton.....	26	0	10
504	Clifton.....	2	12	0
1536	Clitheroe.....	8	0	0
940	Close Hill.....	4	17	11
1205	Clown.....	6	5	6
5804	Colne and District.....	30	5	0
56	" Vale Corn Millers.....	1	1	0
7	" Valley Co-op. Baking.....	0	5	0
733	Colwyn Bay.....	3	16	3
3069	Compstall.....	15	19	8
3674	Congleton.....	18	13	4
426	Cononley.....	2	4	5
719	Co-op. Printing Society, Manchester.....	12	10	0
—	Co-op. Secretaries' Assoc.....	1	17	6
515	" Sundries Manufctg.....	5	0	0
275	Cowling.....	1	8	8
220	Cragg Vale.....	1	3	2
758	Crawshawbooth.....	3	19	0
11157	Crewe Friendly.....	58	0	0
400	Crigglestone.....	2	1	8
3240	Crompton Provident.....	16	17	4
1022	Crosland Moor.....	5	6	4
456	Crosshills.....	2	6	0
2403	Dalton-in-Furness.....	12	10	0
8732	Darwen Industrial.....	45	9	7
55	Deiniolen.....	0	5	9

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
794	Delph Industrial.....	4	2	9
76	Delph Woollen Manufac.....	0	10	0
780	Denaby Main.....	4	1	3
587	Denholme.....	3	0	1
1526	Denton and Houghton.....	7	19	0
12964	Dewsbury Pioneers.....	67	10	4
10	" Co-op. Laundry Association.....	0	5	0
281	Diggle.....	1	9	4
292	Disley.....	1	10	5
124	Dobcross.....	0	12	6
185	Dogley Bar.....	0	19	3
14590	Doncaster.....	75	19	9
392	Dove Holes.....	2	0	10
319	Driffield.....	1	13	3
1083	Drighlington.....	5	10	0
7013	Droylsden.....	36	10	0
801	Eagley.....	4	8	4
980	Earby.....	5	2	1
2971	Earlestown.....	15	9	4
206	Eccles Manufacturing.....	1	15	0
17703	" Provident.....	92	4	2
516	Eccleshill.....	2	13	0
325	Eckington.....	1	13	10
390	Edenfield.....	1	14	7
518	Edgworth.....	2	14	0
335	Egerton.....	1	14	11
112	Elfr Workmen's.....	0	11	8
1632	Ellesmere Port.....	8	6	8
421	Emley.....	2	3	10
763	Employes' Prov. (Port S'light).....	3	19	6
115	Escriek and District.....	0	12	1
185	Ewloe Place.....	0	14	0
9908	Failsworth.....	51	3	1
7626	Farnworth and Kearsley.....	39	14	2
148	Ffynnon Grobyw.....	0	15	5
146	Firgrove.....	0	15	2
3015	Fleetwood.....	15	14	0
660	Flint and Oakenholt.....	3	8	9
763	Fylde Industrial—Kirkham.....	3	19	6
301	Gargrave.....	1	11	4
1400	Garston and District.....	7	5	10
3264	Glossop Dale.....	16	16	8
998	Golcar.....	4	17	8
1030	Gomersal.....	5	6	10
3000	Goole.....	15	12	6
165	Grange Moor Friendly.....	0	17	2
352	Grasscroft.....	1	16	8
5628	Great Horton.....	29	6	3
3508	Great Hatwood.....	18	4	7
120	Great Rocks.....	0	18	3
780	Greenfield.....	4	1	8
559	Greengates & Apperley Bdg.....	2	17	7
111	Gregson's Lane.....	0	11	10
1251	Guisley Lane.....	6	9	9
1616	Hadfield.....	8	8	4
940	Halifax Flour.....	10	0	0
11989	" Industrial.....	62	8	10
1414	Handsworth Woolhouse.....	7	7	4
4416	Harrogate.....	23	0	0
880	Hasland.....	4	11	8
3057	Haslingden Industrial.....	16	11	4
457	Houghton Green.....	2	7	7
392	Hawarden.....	2	0	10
324	Hawkshead.....	1	11	2
1037	Hawthorn.....	5	8	10
553	Hazfield.....	2	17	8
1816	Hazel Grove.....	6	17	1
269	Heapey Busy Bee.....	1	8	0
880	Hebden Bridge Fustian Mfg.....	10	0	0
2886	" Industrial.....	15	0	7
8393	Heckmondwike.....	43	14	4

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
—	Heckmondwike Co-op. Dyeing and Cleaning.....	0	5	0
404	Helmshore.....	2	2	1
440	Heptonstall.....	2	5	10
664	Hepworth.....	3	9	7
4987	Heywood.....	25	19	6
152	Higham.....	0	15	10
1294	Higher Hurst.....	6	14	10
191	Higher Walton.....	1	0	0
2686	Hillhouse Perseverance.....	13	19	8
668	Hill Top (Paddock).....	3	9	5
2038	Hindley.....	10	12	3
773	Hindsford.....	4	0	6
—	Holiday Fellowship.....	0	10	0
774	Hollingworth.....	4	0	8
283	Holmfild.....	1	10	0
4	Holmfirth Boot and Shoe ..	0	10	0
932	Holyhead.....	4	15	10
1216	Honley.....	6	6	8
1758	Horbury.....	8	17	0
3324	Horwich.....	17	6	3
16618	Huddersfield.....	86	11	0
17600	Hull.....	91	13	4
84	„ Printers.....	0	10	6
198	Hulton and Chequerbent....	1	0	7
836	Hurst Brook.....	4	7	1
3224	Hyde Equitable.....	16	16	0
7	„ and District Laundries Association.....	0	5	0
200	Illingworth.....	1	1	0
400	Ingleton.....	4	0	8
244	Junction (Delph).....	1	6	0
11324	Keighley.....	58	19	4
16	„ and Dist. Laundries.....	0	7	6
2633	Kendal.....	13	14	4
737	Killamarsh.....	3	16	1
835	Kilnhurst.....	4	7	0
792	Kippax.....	4	2	6
296	Kirkburton.....	1	10	10
498	Kirkby-in-Furness.....	2	5	8
291	Kirkheaton.....	1	10	4
12090	Lancaster.....	62	19	4
92	Lane Bottom.....	0	8	6
459	Lane Dyehouse.....	2	7	10
320	Langdale.....	1	13	4
47252	Leeds Industrial.....	246	2	0
3131	Leek and Moorlands.....	16	6	0
121	„ Silk Twist.....	2	0	0
547	Lees and Cross Roads.....	2	17	0
127	Leeswood.....	0	12	10
11638	Leigh Friendly.....	60	12	4
152	Lepton Field.....	0	15	10
200	Leven Valley.....	1	0	10
1706	Leyland and Farington.....	8	17	8
930	Linthwaite.....	4	16	10
2442	Littleborough.....	12	14	4
1000	Little Hulton.....	5	4	0
694	Little Lever.....	3	11	3
15864	Liverpool (City of).....	82	12	6
924	Liversedge.....	4	16	3
495	Livesey.....	2	10	8
215	Llanberis.....	1	2	6
327	Llandudno Junction.....	1	13	4
120	Llanrug.....	1	1	0
1271	Longridge.....	6	12	5
709	Longwood.....	3	13	6
357	Love Clough.....	1	17	5
274	Lower Darwen—Fore Street	1	3	4
223	Lower Holker.....	1	3	1
225	Low Moor—Nelson Street ..	1	2	8
1083	Low Wortley.....	5	4	2
456	Luddenden.....	2	6	2

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
622	Luddendenfoot.....	3	4	7
129	Lumb.....	0	13	6
6611	Macclesfield.....	34	8	8
271	„ Silk Manufac.....	2	0	0
11	Manchester and District Laundries Association....	1	0	0
16187	Manchester and Salford Equitable.....	82	10	9
—	Manchester Tenants.....	1	10	0
420	Market Weighton.....	2	3	9
937	Marsden Equitable.....	4	17	6
10346	Masbro' Equit. Pioneers....	53	17	8
1173	Meltham Industrial.....	6	2	2
184	„ Mills Provident.....	0	19	2
771	Middlestown.....	4	0	2
3893	Middleton and Tonge.....	20	1	7
474	Midgley.....	2	9	4
1706	Millom.....	8	17	8
291	Milnrow.....	1	10	0
1838	Milnsbridge Perseverance ..	8	15	10
1730	Mirfield Industrial.....	9	0	2
814	„ Perseverance.....	4	5	0
240	Mold Junction.....	1	5	0
7152	Morley.....	37	5	3
3206	Mossley.....	16	14	0
672	Mytholmroyd.....	3	10	0
112	Nantwich Boot and Shoe....	1	1	0
—	National Labour Press.....	1	10	0
9169	Nelson.....	47	3	8
270	Netherthong.....	1	8	1
452	New Hey.....	2	6	8
2794	New Mills.....	14	1	0
602	New Moston.....	3	2	8
318	New York (Penmaenmawr)...	1	13	2
13	North-East Lancashire Co-op. Laundries Association.....	0	5	0
186	North-Western Co-operative Convalescent Homes Assoc..	1	10	0
—	North-Western Educational Committees' Association ..	1	1	0
13203	Oldham Equitable.....	68	15	4
18289	„ Industrial.....	95	5	1
3245	Ossett.....	16	18	0
1768	Oswaldtwistle.....	9	4	2
986	Oawestry.....	5	2	8
462	Oughtibridge.....	2	9	8
196	Oxenhope.....	1	0	5
255	Oxcroft.....	1	3	5
2750	Padibam.....	14	5	11
100	Pant-y-fownog.....	0	15	3
953	Parkgate and Berry Brow ..	4	17	11
1350	Park Lane.....	7	0	7
149	Peckett Well.....	0	15	6
28510	Pendleton.....	148	19	2
112	Penyford.....	0	11	8
776	Pilsley.....	3	19	2
180	Pocklington.....	0	18	10
515	Poynton and Worth.....	2	13	8
23490	Preston.....	122	0	7
4192	Prestwich.....	21	10	0
2138	Queensbury.....	11	2	8
1732	Queensferry.....	9	1	8
4557	Radcliffe and Pilkington ..	24	7	5
2692	Ramsbottom Industrial.....	13	11	8
560	Ravensthorpe.....	2	16	9
1448	Rawdon.....	7	12	0
1141	Rhodes.....	5	17	5
250	Rhyl.....	1	1	0
211	Ribchester.....	1	1	3
789	Ripon and District.....	4	1	9
659	Ripponden.....	3	6	7
1420	Rishton.....	7	8	0

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
20747	Rochdale Equitable Pioneers	108	1	0
207	Roe Green—Worsley	1	1	7
2286	Royston	11	18	0
8721	Runcorn and Widnes	45	8	6
13760	St. Helens	71	13	4
80	St. Martin's	0	8	4
344	Sabden	1	15	10
74	Salterforth	0	7	9
2244	Sandbach	11	14	0
261	Scapegoat Hill	1	7	2
1713	Scarborough	8	18	5
8	Scar Wood Coal	0	5	0
134	Sedbergh	0	13	6
711	Scoby and District	3	14	3
280	Shawforth	1	9	2
350	Sheepridge	1	16	6
18732	Sheffield and Ecclesall	97	11	2
50	„ Cutlery	0	10	0
81	„ Federated Cutlers	0	10	0
525	Shepley	2	14	5
322	Siddall	1	13	6
1056	Silsden	5	10	0
4440	Silverdale	22	10	8
—	Skelldale Dairy	0	5	0
1453	Skelmanthorpe	1	3	7
1278	Skelmersdale	6	7	1
1983	Skipton	10	6	7
2785	Slaithwaite	14	10	0
194	Smithy Bridge	1	0	2
564	South Crosland & Netherton	2	18	9
1603	Southport	8	7	0
1674	Sowerby Bridge Flour	10	0	0
3493	„ Industrial	18	3	10
507	Stacksteads	2	12	9
834	Stainland & Holywell Green	4	6	11
4152	Stalybridge	21	12	6
103	Stanbury	0	10	10
1225	Staveley Town	6	7	7
452	Steeton	2	7	1
9775	Stockport	50	14	3
422	„ Great Moor	2	4	0
2424	Stocksbridge	12	12	6
250	Styal	1	6	1
188	Summerseat & Brooksbotms	0	19	7
500	Sutton Mill	2	12	0
2310	Swarthmoor and Ulverston	12	0	0
746	Swinton—Chorley Road	3	16	9
831	„ Moorside	4	6	7
741	Tadcaster	3	17	2
413	Thomson, Wm., and Sons	3	5	0
629	Thornton	3	5	6
776	Todmorden—Bridge End	2	0	5
4646	„ Industrial	24	3	11
71	Tong Park, Baildon	0	7	6
400	Tottington Equitable	2	1	8
9600	Toxteth	50	0	0
360	Trawden	1	17	6
86	Turn	0	9	5
1753	Tyldesley	9	0	3
144	Upper Hopton	0	15	0
1282	Uppermill	6	13	8
443	Uppertown	2	6	2
185	Wainstalls	0	19	3
6000	Wakefield Industrial	38	13	0
2621	Walkden	13	7	9
385	Walmer Bridge	1	16	5
721	Walsden	3	15	1
215	Wardle	1	2	6
13575	Warrington	70	14	0
192	Water	1	0	0
640	Waterfoot	3	5	2
845	Waterloo	4	8	4

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1185	Westhoughton Friendly	6	0	0
1377	Westhoughton United	7	3	4
33	West Yorks. Coal Federation	0	5	0
605	Wetherby	3	3	6
2066	Whaley Bridge and Buxton	10	15	2
151	Wheatley Lane	0	15	9
125	Wheelton	0	18	0
664	Whiston	3	9	2
1011	Whitefield and Unsworth	5	3	5
372	Whitewell Bottom	1	18	9
281	Whittle-le-Woods	1	9	2
653	Whitworth	4	8	10
450	Wibsey Slackside	2	6	10
7305	Wigan	88	0	11
397	Wildsen	2	1	4
233	Windermere	1	4	4
7375	Windhill	38	8	3
285	Winewall	1	9	8
3858	Winnington and Northwich	20	1	10
3294	Winsford	17	8	1
496	Withnell	2	11	7
592	Wooddale	3	0	6
720	Woolfold	8	12	9
3427	Workop	17	17	0
1652	Wrexham	8	12	0
11100	York Equitable	57	16	3
566	Youlgreave	2	19	4

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DONATIONS.

23	Co-operative Insurance	25	0	0
339	Co-op. Newspaper Society	15	0	0
1168	„ Wholesale „	590	0	0

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SCOTTISH SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
17677	Aberdeen Northern	92	1	4
93	Aberfoyle	0	9	9
190	Abernethy Baking	1	4	10
4693	Alloa	24	8	11
1158	Alva Bazaar	6	0	7
1284	Ardrossan	6	13	9
568	Annie'sland	2	17	8
1476	Arbroath Equitable	7	13	9
1770	„ High Street	9	3	3
1264	Armada	6	11	8
485	Auchenheath	2	10	7
800	Auchinleck	4	3	4
530	Auchtermuchty	2	5	1
2075	Avonbank	10	16	2
3046	Bainsford and Grahamston Baking	10	0	0
140	Balfron	0	14	7
1736	Bannockburn	8	19	8
63	Banton	0	6	5
2931	Barthead	15	5	4
3257	Bathgate	16	13	4
756	Beith	3	18	9
2142	Bellshill and Mossend	10	18	0
1570	Blantyre	8	5	0
1720	Bo'ness	8	19	1
1100	Bonnybridge	5	14	2
499	Bonnyrigg	2	12	0
3200	Brechin United	16	13	4
250	Bridge of Weir	1	6	1
1549	Broxburn	8	1	4

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1978	Buckhaven	10	6	0
1676	Burnbank	8	14	8
661	Burntisland	3	9	0
250	Busby	1	6	0
440	Cadder	2	5	10
325	Calderbank	1	13	10
1842	Cambuslang	9	12	0
1898	Camelon	7	5	7
456	Campbeltown	2	7	6
1050	Carlisle	5	7	5
768	Carriek	3	16	10
429	Carron	2	4	11
353	Carstairs Junction	1	15	4
810	Cathcart	4	4	4
740	Catrine	3	17	1
670	Chapelhall	3	9	9
342	Clackmannan	1	15	8
580	Cleland	2	19	7
6754	Clydebank	35	3	6
288	Condorrat	1	10	2
1186	Coalburn	2	12	6
263	Coalsnaughton	1	7	6
250	Coaltown of Wemyss	1	6	0
6989	Coatbridge	36	8	0
—	Co-op. Convalescent Homes Association	2	0	0
1629	Cowdenbeath	8	9	8
9034	Cowlairs	47	1	0
96	Creetown	0	10	0
221	Crieff	1	2	9
979	Crofthead	5	2	0
742	Crosshouse	3	17	8
305	Cumbernauld	1	11	11
450	Cupar and District	2	6	10
1065	Dalkeith	5	4	0
400	Dalmellington	2	2	0
663	Dalmuir	3	4	8
582	Dalry	3	0	7
8388	Dalziel	43	18	9
1058	Darvel	5	10	2
1006	Denny and Dunipace	5	4	10
284	Douglas Provident	1	9	7
224	„ Water	1	3	4
685	Dreghorn	3	11	4
3325	Dumbarton	17	6	4
2447	Dumfries and Maxwelltown	12	14	11
461	Dunblane	2	8	0
2170	Dundee (City of)	11	6	0
2681	„ and Dist. Co-op. Coal	10	0	0
8640	Dunfermline	45	0	0
295	Duntocher and Hardgate	1	10	10
1672	Dykehead and Shotts	8	14	2
1368	Dysart	7	2	6
280	Earlston	1	6	0
185	East Kilbride	0	19	3
722	East Wemyss	3	15	2
—	Edinburgh—People's Bank	2	0	0
158	„ Printing	1	5	0
43804	„ St. Cuthbert's	223	2	11
158	Fergushill	0	16	6
420	Frazerburgh	2	5	6
2302	Galashiels United	11	17	6
360	Gallatown	1	17	6
1245	Galston	6	9	8
66	Gavieside	0	6	11
749	Gilbertfield	3	18	0
200	Glasgow—Civic Press	1	1	0
2985	„ Drapery & Furnish.	14	0	0
8263	„ Eastern	43	0	8
18355	„ Kinning Park	95	12	0
2466	„ London Road	12	16	10
3053	„ Progress	15	18	0

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
15134	Glasgow—St. George	78	0	0
4061	„ St. Rollox	21	8	0
201	„ United Baking	25	0	0
109	Glenbuck	0	11	3
185	Glengowan	0	19	4
1402	Gorebridge	7	6	0
2960	Grahamston and Bainsford	15	8	4
1412	Grangemouth	7	8	8
112	Greengairs	0	11	8
6159	Greenock—Central	32	1	6
995	„ East End	5	3	8
620	Guard Bridge	3	4	7
1218	Haddington	6	8	4
205	Hallside	1	1	4
7	Hamilton—Baking	2	0	0
2790	„ Central	14	10	7
480	„ Palace Colliery	2	10	0
4444	Hawick	23	0	3
146	Howwood	0	15	3
245	Hurlet and Nitshill	1	5	5
927	Hurlford	4	16	7
522	Innerleithen	2	14	4
252	Inverness	1	6	2
916	Irvine and Fullarton	4	15	5
346	Jedburgh Store Co.	1	11	3
1765	Johnstone	9	4	0
819	Juniper Green	4	3	0
428	Kelso	2	4	7
2097	Kelty	10	18	6
323	Kettle	1	13	8
528	„ Baking	2	16	6
548	Kilbarchan	2	16	4
1601	Kilbirnie	8	6	9
8993	Kilnarnock Equitable	46	16	9
1885	Kilsyth	7	4	3
980	Kilwinning	5	2	1
187	Kingseat	0	19	6
1663	Kirkintilloch	8	13	3
1496	Lanark Provident	7	15	11
580	Langholm	3	0	5
652	Larbert	8	8	0
1435	Larkhall	7	13	10
231	Lassodie	1	4	0
41	Leavensseat	0	4	6
7195	Leith Provident	37	9	6
432	Lennoxtown	2	1	8
270	Leslie	0	7	0
1166	„ and District	6	1	6
1861	Leven Reform	9	7	6
289	Linwood	1	10	1
3162	Lochgelly	16	9	6
269	Lochwinnoch	1	8	0
828	Longcroft	5	8	6
1800	Markinch	4	13	9
575	Mauchline	2	19	11
172	Menstrie	0	17	6
860	Methil	4	9	6
700	Milngavie	8	10	4
110	Moffat Mills	0	13	9
650	Muirkirk	8	7	9
3996	Musselburgh and Fisherrow	20	10	0
400	Newarthill	2	1	5
224	Newburgh and District	1	3	4
595	New Cumnock	8	2	0
1100	Newmains & Cambusnethan	5	11	1
1144	Newmilns	5	19	2
316	Newton	1	18	0
163	Newton Mearns	0	17	0
695	Newtonshaw	3	12	5
903	Overtown	1	11	8
1709	Paisley Equitable	8	6	8
5027	„ Manufacturing	25	0	0

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
8539	Paisley Provident	44	5	4
409	" Underwood Coal	2	2	7
4064	Pathhead and Sineclartown..	21	3	4
854	Peebles	4	8	0
2112	Penicuik	11	0	0
6709	Perth—City of	34	18	10
2141	" Coal	5	0	0
1410	Pollokshaws	7	6	10
1606	Port Glasgow (Fore Street)..	8	7	4
1647	" Provident	8	1	0
1110	Portobello	5	14	7
840	Prestonpans	4	3	4
1478	Renfrew Equitable	8	13	9
395	St. Andrews	2	0	8
—	Scottish Agricultural Organi- sation Society.	2	0	0
68	Scottish Co-op. Laundry	1	0	0
—	" " Veterans' Association	0	5	0
62	" " "Co-operator"	1	0	0
1209	Selkirk	6	6	3
6095	Shettleston	31	8	8
208	Skinflats	1	1	9
1000	Slamannan	5	4	2
890	Stenhousemuir Equitable ..	4	12	9
976	" Baking	5	10	0
1130	Stevenson	5	17	8
4400	Stirling	22	18	4
410	Stonefield	2	2	8
427	Strathaven	2	4	6
553	Thornliebank	2	17	7
1347	Tilliecultry	6	19	7
1330	Toll Cross	6	18	6
620	Townhill	3	4	7
2770	Tranent	14	8	6
960	Troon	5	0	0
1833	Uddingston	9	10	11
4519	Vale of Leven Alexandria..	23	12	0
330	Walkerburn	1	14	4
1599	West Benhar	8	6	6
5728	West Calder	81	16	8
290	West Wemyss	1	10	0
134	Wigtown	0	13	0
3100	Wishaw	16	2	11

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DONATIONS.

268	Scottish C. Wholesale Society.	100	0	0
	Falkirk District Association ..	0	10	0
	Renfrew District Association..	0	10	0
	East of Scotland District Assoc.	0	10	0

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SOUTHERN SECTION.

No. of Members	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
16	Addington	0	1	8
1154	Addlestone and District	6	0	2
1160	Aldershot	6	0	10
187	Alton and District	0	18	9
111	Amesbury	0	11	7
1512	Andover	7	17	6
558	Arlesey	2	18	2
519	Arundel	2	14	1
2028	Ashford	10	7	8
1028	Aylesbury	5	4	2
3856	Banbury	20	1	8
1074	Basingstoke	5	2	1
1600	Becles	8	8	0

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1305	Bedford Progressive	6	15	11
862	Berkhamstead	4	4	8
400	Biggleswade	2	1	8
404	Bishop's Stortford	2	2	0
715	Bletchley & Fenny Stratford.	8	14	6
719	Bradford-on-Avon	8	15	0
1454	Braintree and West Essex ..	7	8	0
50	Bramshaw	0	5	3
268	Brandon	1	7	7
1302	Brentwood	6	13	4
4368	Brighton Equitable	22	15	0
7195	Bromley and Crays	37	6	5
306	Burwell	1	11	3
1223	Bury St. Edmund's	6	5	0
336	Calne	1	15	0
6384	Cambridge	33	5	0
502	Canterbury	2	12	1
60	Carterton	0	6	3
3024	Chatham and District	15	15	0
380	Chatteris	1	19	7
3455	Chelmsford	18	0	0
1005	Chesham	5	4	8
79	" Boot and Shoe	0	7	6
1522	Chippenhams	7	19	4
2191	Chipping Norton	11	8	3
620	Clacton	3	4	7
338	Cliffe-at-Hoo	1	15	8
8516	Colchester and East Essex ..	33	5	3
2550	Cowes	10	12	6
411	Crawley and Ifield	2	2	10
484	Cromer	2	10	5
308	Croxley	1	12	1
3097	Croydon	15	12	0
2000	Dartford	10	4	0
736	Devizes	3	16	11
413	Diss	2	3	0
200	Dunmow	1	0	10
307	Earls Colne	1	12	0
1330	Eastleigh	6	18	8
816	Ely	4	5	0
6300	Enfield Highway	32	16	3
640	Epping	3	11	0
400	Fakenham	2	1	8
504	Farnham	2	13	0
1367	Faversham	7	0	8
2399	Folkestone	15	2	0
569	Garden City Co-operators ..	2	19	3
186	" Press	1	0	0
5664	Gillingham	29	10	0
1198	Godalming	6	4	10
315	Gomshall	1	13	6
2109	Gravesend, Borough of	9	18	4
6328	Grays	32	19	2
1811	Great Yarmouth	9	8	8
330	Greenstreet	1	14	5
2000	Guildford	10	8	4
1600	Halstead	8	6	8
372	Hampton and New Hampton	1	18	9
1692	Harwich and Dovercourt	8	8	0
714	Haslemere and District	3	12	1
490	Hastings and St. Leonards ..	2	8	0
1645	Haverhill	8	11	11
1078	Haywards Heath	5	12	3
844	Hemel Hempstead	1	15	10
850	High Wycombe	3	11	0
301	Hitchin United	1	6	0
10483	Ipswich	54	12	0
1859	King's Lynn	7	15	4
162	Lakenheath	0	16	8
447	Leatherhead	2	6	7
931	Leiston	4	17	0
1690	Lewes	8	14	2

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
—	London—Agricultural Organisation Society..	2	0	0
777	Anchor	4	1	0
—	Anchor Sav'gs Bnk.	0	10	0
79	Bookbinders	0	8	3
367	Canteen and Mess..	5	5	0
90093	Civil Service Supply	37	12	6
60	C. Bass Dressers ..	0	7	0
147	C. Brotherhood Trst.	0	15	4
—	C. Brotherhood Trst. Extension	0	4	9
82	C. Clothiers	0	10	6
—	C. Permnt. Buildg.	10	10	0
—	Co-partnership Ten.	4	0	0
330	Ealing Tenants....	1	14	5
15641	Edmonton	81	9	4
1050	Hendon Industrial.	5	0	0
79	Hotel & Restaurant Employés	0	8	3
—	King's Cross Publishing Co.	0	5	0
208	Perseverance	1	0	10
88	Pioneer Co-op. Boot	0	12	6
344	Tenant Co-operators	1	15	10
7104	West London	37	0	0
2108	Lowestoft	10	18	8
4497	Luton	23	8	6
737	Maidenhead	4	4	0
768	Maidstone	4	0	0
1143	Maldon and Heybridge.	5	19	2
179	Medway Barge Builders	1	1	0
368	Melton Constable	2	0	7
435	Mere and District	2	1	8
98	Middleton Stoney	0	10	0
1609	Newhaven	8	17	0
1252	Newmarket	6	10	6
450	Newport Pagnell.....	2	6	10
3731	New Swindon Industrial	19	9	0
9762	Norwich	50	16	10
226	Olney	1	3	7
9662	Oxford	50	6	5
60	C. Builders.....	0	6	6
2599	Parkstone and Bournemouth	13	10	9
2124	Penge and Beckenham	11	1	7
11816	Portsea Island	61	10	10
276	Potton	1	8	1
591	Rainham	2	19	3
671	Ramsgate	3	9	5
68	Ravenstone	0	7	1
9519	Reading	49	11	6
1814	Reigate	9	9	0
132	Richmond and District Agri.	0	13	9
200	Ringwood	1	0	10
4658	River and District	24	5	2
3039	Rochester	15	12	6
291	Romsey	1	10	3
970	St. Albans	5	9	0
380	St. Neots	1	19	8
380	Saffron Walden	1	19	7
1313	Salisbury	7	0	4
1104	Sawston	5	15	0
578	Shanklin Lake & Branstone	3	0	5
72	Sharnbrook	0	7	6
3081	Sheerness	16	1	0
2572	Economical.....	13	5	10
545	Sheringham	2	16	9
29	Sherston C. Milling	0	5	0
300	Silsoe	1	11	8
3448	Sittingbourne	17	19	2
1850	Slough and District	9	10	1
5952	Southampton	45	7	8
1476	Staines and Egham	7	13	8

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
260	Steeple Aston	1	6	0
692	Stony Stratford.....	3	12	1
1089	Stowmarket	5	13	6
33044	Stratford.....	204	11	0
144	Sunningdale	0	15	0
1792	Sutton	5	0	6
470	Swaffham	2	9	0
1395	Thetford	9	2	3
749	Tiptree	8	18	0
540	Tonbridge	2	18	6
996	Tring	7	15	9
8714	Trowbridge	19	6	10
1526	Tunbridge Wells.....	7	19	0
749	Warminster	8	18	0
4785	Watford	24	18	6
2435	Weymouth.....	12	13	8
439	Wickham Market	2	4	11
2645	Willesden and District	13	15	6
463	Junction	2	8	0
247	Wilton.....	1	19	4
1164	Winchester and District	5	19	4
1113	Windsor	5	14	7
700	Witham	3	11	6
1400	Woking	7	5	10
2140	Wolverton	1	21	11
34307	Woolwich—Royal Arsenal	178	13	7
445	Wymondham	2	6	4
909	Yiewsley and West Drayton.	4	14	8
196	Union Agricole de Jersey.....	1	12	8

449,730 £1958 14 8

DONATIONS.

—	Railway Clearing House	2	2	0
449,730		£1960 16 8		

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
136	Axminster.....	0	14	1
1084	Bath	5	12	6
367	Bideford	1	18	3
246	Bodmin	1	5	6
613	Bovey Tracey	3	3	10
1914	Bridgwater	9	6	10
16604	Bristol	86	9	6
63	Printers	0	7	0
800	Brixham	4	0	0
463	Bruton	2	8	2
822	Buckfastleigh	4	5	7
346	Camborne	1	16	0
1982	Chard	10	6	9
510	Coleford	2	15	8
93	Colyton	0	9	8
208	Cornwood	1	2	5
188	Cullompton	0	19	7
114	Darite	0	11	11
480	Dartmouth.....	2	10	0
600	Delabole	3	0	5
110	East Hartree	0	10	0
3362	Exeter	17	10	3
911	Exmouth	4	15	0
931	Frome	4	15	7
251	Honiton	1	4	8
188	Ifracombe	0	19	7
128	Kingswear	0	13	6
134	Lee Moor	0	14	7
1209	Liskeard St. Cleer	6	5	11
—	Lostwithiel	0	13	4

South-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
250	Menheniot.....	1	6	0
243	Minehead.....	1	5	4
272	Moreton Hampstead.....	1	8	4
1630	Newton Abbot.....	8	8	10
83	North Tawton.....	0	8	8
217	Oakhill.....	1	2	7
386	Okehampton.....	2	0	2
125	Ottery St. Mary.....	0	13	0
1802	Paignton.....	9	7	8
148	Pensilva.....	0	15	5
537	Penzance and District.....	2	15	11
40149	Plymouth.....	205	13	9
195	" Printers.....	1	5	0
508	Plympton.....	2	12	11
535	Portishead.....	2	16	4
4721	Radstock.....	15	16	3
170	Roche.....	0	15	0
760	St. Austell.....	4	0	0
308	St. Blazey.....	1	12	1
519	St. Columb Road.....	2	11	6
1000	Saltash.....	5	4	2
640	Sidmouth.....	1	11	3
439	South Molton.....	2	5	8
285	Stoke-under-Ham.....	1	9	2
2400	Taunton.....	12	10	0
518	Tavistock.....	2	14	0
692	Teignmouth.....	3	12	2
241	Templecombe.....	1	5	1
933	Tiverton.....	4	15	0
2511	Torquay.....	13	1	8
236	Torrington.....	1	4	7
296	Truro.....	1	10	9
2728	Twerton-on-Avon.....	14	4	2
425	Wadebridge.....	2	4	3
1256	Wellington (Somerset).....	6	10	10
710	Weston-super-Mare.....	3	14	0
2250	Yeovil.....	11	16	4

105975

£537 13 11

WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
322	Aberavon.....	1	13	6
2120	Aberdare.....	10	15	0
260	Abergavenny.....	1	7	0
2769	Abersychan and Talywain.....	14	3	6
220	Afan Valley.....	1	2	0
1533	Alltwen and Pontardawe.....	6	0	10
720	Ammanford.....	3	7	9
1010	Barry and District.....	5	5	2
2063	Blaenavon.....	10	15	0
338	Blaengarw.....	1	1	0
6952	Blaina.....	36	4	0
103	Bream.....	0	10	9
155	Brecon.....	0	16	3
794	Briton Ferry.....	4	2	8
105	Bryn Colliery.....	0	10	5
399	Burry Port.....	1	14	3
611	Caerau and Maesteg.....	4	14	10
3921	Caincross and Ebley.....	20	8	4
2531	Cardiff.....	13	3	8
622	Chepstow.....	1	12	6
2594	Cinderford.....	13	10	3
200	Cradoc.....	1	1	0
112	Craig-cefn-parc.....	0	12	4
6203	Cwmbach.....	47	18	8
234	Cwmbran and Pontnewydd..	1	4	5

Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
616	Cwmbwrla.....	8	8	9
150	Cwmgorse.....	0	15	8
945	Cwmillynfell.....	1	5	6
1447	Cwmtillery.....	7	10	9
419	Cymmer.....	2	3	8
1346	Dowlais Workmen's.....	5	14	8
1745	Ebbw Vale.....	8	10	1
627	Frampton Cotterell.....	3	5	4
10165	Gloucester.....	52	18	8
256	Glyncorrgw.....	1	6	8
140	Gorslas.....	0	14	7
1178	Hereford.....	6	2	8
470	Kemble.....	2	9	0
121	Llanbradach.....	0	12	7
893	Llanelly.....	4	13	0
80	Llangennech.....	0	8	4
400	Llanidloes.....	2	1	8
155	Lower Cwmwrch.....	0	16	2
308	Lydney.....	1	12	1
317	Merthyr.....	1	13	0
1500	Mid-Rhondda.....	7	16	3
1888	Nantymoel.....	3	17	3
570	Neath Abbey and Skewen.....	2	17	3
4000	Newport (Mon.).....	20	16	8
1047	Newtown (Mont.).....	5	6	4
1831	New Tredegar and District.....	6	18	9
192	Pantdu.....	1	0	10
1143	Pembroke Dock.....	5	19	0
1084	Penarth.....	5	13	0
1610	Pen-y-graig.....	8	7	8
252	Pillowell and Yorkley.....	1	6	0
864	Pontardulais.....	4	10	0
160	Pontthydyfen.....	1	0	0
213	Pontyberem.....	0	5	7
1258	Pontycymmer.....	6	11	0
79	Pontyrhyl.....	0	8	4
500	Resolven.....	2	12	1
1190	Senghenydd and Aber Valley.....	6	4	0
127	South Cerney.....	0	13	3
4584	Stroud.....	19	1	11
1600	Swansea.....	7	17	8
480	Taibach and Port Talbot....	2	10	0
1936	Ton Industrial.....	10	1	8
355	Treboeth.....	1	8	0
500	Trecynon and Cwmdare.....	2	4	10
1950	Tredegar.....	19	14	0
960	Treharris.....	5	0	0
115	Trimsaran.....	0	12	0
725	Troedyrhiw.....	3	12	11
68	Upper Lydbrook.....	0	7	1
270	Welshpool.....	1	8	2
1533	Ynysyhwyl.....	8	4	11
130	Ystalyfera.....	0	13	6

91663

£486 12 10

SUMMARY.

		£	s.	d.
18119	Ireland	105	15	7
373536	Midland Section.....	1964	11	10
332880	Northern Section.....	1692	18	4
970669	North-Western Section	6330	16	8
408225	Scottish Section	2231	13	0
449730	Southern Section.....	1960	16	8
105975	South-Western Section	537	13	11
91663	Western Section.....	486	12	10

2750797

£15360 18 10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	140	8	2	17936	7	7
To Half Expenses and Salary of Propagandist Agent—Repaid by Co-operative Wholesale Society	139	19	2			
„ Proportion of Joint Parliamentary Committee's Expenses—Repaid by Co-operative Wholesale Society	56	7	6			
„ Proportion of Joint Parliamentary Committee's Expenses—Repaid by Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	56	7	6			
„ Trade Dividend, Interest and Bonus on Shares—Co-operative Printing Society	42	8	6			
„ Dividend on Premiums and Interest on Shares—Co-operative Insurance Society	0	17	2			
„ Dividend on Trade—Derby Printers	1	10	6			
„ Audit Fees—Ireland	74	1	0			
„ Donations per Mr. D. McInnes	4	1	3			
„ Refunded on Account of General Secretary's Railway Contract, &c.....	7	2	9			
„ Entrance Fees—Managers' Training Centres—						
Correspondence	£61	18	0			
Classes	90	18	9			
„ „ „ Secretaries' Correspondence Course	42	10	6			
„ „ „ Correspondence Classes—						
Book-keeping	89	4	6			
Co-operation	12	5	0			
Industrial History	0	15	0			
Citizenship	0	15	0			
Economics	0	10	0			
Economics of Co-operation	3	15	0			
Elocution Class	12	5	0			
Students' Fellowship	2	7	0			
Individual Examinations	31	19	6			
„ Expenses—Elocution Classes—Repaid by Workers' Educational Association	13	12	6			
„ Summer School Scholarships—Refunded	5	0	0			
„ Sale of "Young People's" Badges	0	3	8			
„ „ Men's Guild Publications and Badges	10	7	1			
„ „ Slides and Railway Claims	3	17	3			
„ Men's Guild Subscription	77	9	10			
„ Summer School Receipts	192	13	5			
	652	7	0			
„ North-Western Section Receipts—Bank Interest	1	6	3			
„ Scottish Section—Rents	22	2	0			
„ „ „ Bank Interest	0	10	3			
„ „ „ Sales	3	2	0			
„ Western Section—Expenses repaid	3	11	10			
	1206	2	10			
„ "Blandford" Memorial Fund—Dublin Congress	76	8	0			
„ Cash received on account of "Hughes" Scholarship Fund	79	15	6			
„ „ „ "Neale"	79	15	8			
„ Subscriptions received on account of International Co-operative Alliance	616	17	4			
„ Donations on account of Prince of Wales Fund	3060	6	3			
„ „ „ Belgian Distress Fund	5229	8	7			
„ Cash due to "Secretaries"—North-Western Section, 31st December, 1914	1	15	1			
„ „ „ Southern Section 31st December, 1914	11	3	7			
„ „ „ Western Section, 31st December, 1914	12	17	8			
„ Bank Withdrawals	22216	2	3			
	£50527	0	6			

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
CR.			
By Bank Deposits	28083	16	9
„ Cash due to Secretary Southern Section, 31st December, 1913	16	16	9
„ Cash paid on account of "Hughes" Scholarship Fund	100	0	0
„ „ „ "Neale"	66	13	4
„ Subscriptions received on account of International Co-operative Alliance—Paid over	616	17	6
„ "Blandford" Memorial Fund—Aberdeen	50	3	3
„ „ „ Dublin—Paid for Scholarships	20	0	0
„ University Scholars' Maintenance Fund	5	0	0
„ Prince of Wales Fund—Paid over	3060	6	3
„ Belgian Distress Fund—Returned and expended	101	14	0
Carried forward	32121	7	10

CASH ACCOUNT.

729

Brought forward £ s. d.
32121 7 10

UNITED BOARD.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
By DUBLIN CONGRESS:—									
Travelling	241	0	1						
Expenses	274	0	0						
Reporting	30	0	0						
Photographs, Carriage, &c.	1	13	2						
Decorations and Post Office Charges	3	16	3						
General Printing	60	15	3						
Balance of Congress Reception Committee's Expenses	782	1	11						
				1393	6	8			
„ CENTRAL BOARD MEETING, MANCHESTER:—									
Travelling	106	6	11						
Expenses	62	10	0						
				168	16	11			
„ UNITED BOARD MEETING:—									
Travelling	124	7	1						
Expenses	67	0	0						
				191	7	1			
„ OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:—									
Travelling	43	6	1						
Expenses	28	12	6						
				71	18	7			
„ SUB-OFFICE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:—									
Travelling	32	8	9						
Expenses	19	10	0						
				51	18	9			
„ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS:—									
Travelling	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Expenses	£	s.	d.	Totals.	£	s.	d.		
Alloa	6	6	0	2	0	0	8	6	0
Birmingham	0	13	11	0	6	0	0	19	11
Bedlington	1	13	6	1	5	0	2	18	6
Bradford	2	8	9	1	0	0	3	8	9
Crewe	0	5	2	0	2	6	0	7	8
Dublin C.R.C.	12	12	0	11	0	0	23	12	0
„ and Dundalk ..	2	0	0	1	10	0	3	10	0
Leicester C.R.C.	5	19	8	3	15	0	9	14	8
London	53	5	6	57	2	6	110	8	0
Manchester	0	8	0	1	10	0	1	18	0
„ P'rman't T'cher.	35	15	5	34	19	3	70	14	8
„ Publications Com.	8	3	3	11	4	0	19	7	3
Wigan	3	0	5	1	0	0	4	0	5
Hamburg and Cologne—									
International Alliance									
Central Committee ..	32	14	10	18	0	0	50	14	10
	165	6	5	144	14	3	310	0	8
							310	0	8
„ FOREIGN CONGRESS DELEGATIONS:—									
Austrian—Vienna	17	19	6	12	0	0	29	19	6
Belgian—Seraing	5	6	8	7	0	0	12	6	8
Danish—Copenhagen ..	11	0	9	7	0	0	18	0	9
Finnish—Tampere	23	3	5	14	0	0	37	3	5
German—Bremen	20	18	2	20	0	0	40	18	2
Norwegian—Christiania ..	10	3	9	10	0	0	20	3	9
Swedish—Stockholm ..	17	19	6	10	0	0	27	19	6
Swiss—Berne	10	18	1	8	0	0	18	18	1
	117	9	10	88	0	0	205	9	10
							205	9	10
„ JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE:—									
London	74	9	2	25	0	0	99	9	2
Manchester	6	19	10	3	0	0	9	19	10
Newcastle	6	18	6	2	0	0	8	18	6
	88	7	6	30	0	0	118	7	6

Carried forward £ s. d.
2392 18 6 32121 7 10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	2392	18	6	3212	7	10
By JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE—continued:—						
Secretary's Salary	£75	0	0			
Office Assistance	20	18	0			
Secretary's Expenses—London	12	10	8			
" Manchester	6	13	8			
" Newcastle	8	16	6			
Parliamentary Bills, Papers, and Reports	7	11	8			
Office Requisites	3	2	8			
Postage, Carriage, Telegrams, &c.	5	15	2			
Subscriptions	7	7	0			
Sundries	0	7	7			
General Printing	19	14	0			
Translating and Typing	1	5	0			
				287	9	11
„ EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE:—						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Arnside	16	1	2	9	3	0
Birmingham	1	4	1	0	7	6
Boldon	—	—	—	0	5	0
Bristol	—	—	—	0	2	6
Carlisle	5	7	10	5	0	0
Darlington	1	12	3	1	12	6
Glasgow	0	1	2	0	2	6
Leeds Secs. Exam. Board	4	17	7	2	11	6
Leicester	0	14	5	0	7	6
Letchworth	3	14	3	1	0	0
London	7	3	10	3	0	0
Manchester	70	15	10	44	2	6
" Mgr's. Exam. Bd.	6	2	2	3	10	0
Middlesbrough	0	14	4	0	5	0
" Week-end	2	9	3	6	10	9
Newcastle	1	6	4	0	17	6
Nottingham	1	4	6	0	8	6
Oxford	3	18	10	1	10	0
Oxford and London	9	14	0	5	0	0
Portsmouth	2	7	3	1	0	0
Saltburn	19	14	6	10	18	6
	159	3	7	97	14	9
				256	18	4
„ TUTORIAL CLASS COMMITTEES:—						
Birmingham	—	—	—	0	7	6
Bristol	0	0	6	0	5	0
Leeds	1	7	9	0	12	6
Liverpool	1	19	6	0	15	0
London	—	—	—	0	10	0
Nottingham	0	13	3	0	2	6
Oxford	1	11	10	1	10	0
	5	12	10	4	2	6
„ STUDENTS' FELLOWSHIP:—						
Saltburn	3	6	0	1	0	0
				4	6	0
General Printing				14	16	6
				19	2	6
„ MEN'S GUILD:—						
Birmingham	0	5	7	0	5	0
London	11	15	9	2	13	0
Manchester	2	15	0	0	5	0
Middlesbrough	13	16	1	2	10	0
Newport	12	8	5	2	15	0
Sheffield	11	14	0	2	18	6
Sutton Coldfield	0	7	8	0	1	6
	53	2	6	11	8	0
				64	10	6
Postage and Carriage				6	15	5
Rent of Room				0	15	0
Men's Guild Badges				11	9	3
General Printing				37	17	9
				121	7	11
Carried forward	407	4	1	2680	8	5

Carried forward

CASH ACCOUNT.

731

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	407	4	1	2680	8	5	32121	7	10
By SUMMER SCHOOL:—									
Rent	£85	0	0						
Food	81	10	11						
Wages, Insurance, Lectures, and Travelling	24	11	7						
Other Expenses	29	11	0						
General Printing	10	14	6						
				231	8	0			
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:—									
Grants to Classes	40	0	0						
„ for Prizes	73	2	6						
Prizes for—									
Summer Meeting and School	27	10	0						
Junior and Intermediate Exams. ..	4	0	0						
Essay Competition	5	0	0						
Secretaries' Course	0	10	6						
Medals—Management Classes	4	10	0						
Co-operative Play	6	17	0						
Examination Expenses—				161	10	0			
Junior and Intermediate	10	6	0						
Book-keeping	74	8	3						
Co-operation	52	10	0						
Secretaries	0	5	0						
Management	30	4	6						
Economics of Co-operation	1	14	0						
Teachers' Fees and Expenses—				169	7	9			
Correspondence—Book-keeping ...	80	16	0						
„ Co-operation	25	0	0						
„ Economics and									
Co-operation ..	30	0	0						
„ Industrial History									
and Citizenship ..	10	0	0						
„ Secretaries' Course ..	45	9	0						
Book-keeping Class—Manchester ..	35	12	6						
Elocution Class ..	27	15	0						
Women's Guides Classes	75	19	5						
Salesmanship and Management	278	2	9	608	14	8			
Lectures—General	6	8	0						
„ Secretaries	11	3	11						
Grants to—									
Guild School Teachers' Class	10	0	0						
Tutorial Class—Holyoake House ..	15	0	0						
Workers' Educational Association ..	5	0	0						
Lantern Slides	9	12	3						
Advertising	36	17	6						
Publications	3	18	0						
Telegrams	0	18	6						
Carriage	0	15	7						
General Printing	300	9	3	400	3	0			
				1978	7	6			
By MINIMUM WAGE COM- MITTEE:—									
Travelling ..	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Totals.		
Arnside	3	7	3	1	0	0	4	7	3
Carlisle	7	0	11	3	19	0	10	19	11
Leeds	7	5	8	5	0	0	12	5	8
Manchester	7	11	8	4	0	0	11	11	8
	25	5	6	13	19	0	30	4	6
General Printing				19	12	0			
				58	16	6			
„ JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE:—									
Manchester	15	8	7	13	0	0			
				28	8	7			
Organisers' Expenses—									
Propaganda				75	6	8			
Salary				156	0	0			
National Health Insurance				0	13	0			
Carried forward	260	8	3	4717	12	5	32121	7	10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	260	8	3	4717	12	5	32121	7	10
By JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE—continued:—									
W. Hewison, Northern Section—Propaganda	6	19	6						
Salary	16	0	0						
Special Propaganda—Ryde	5	16	4						
„ „ Hastings	10	0	0						
				299	4	1			
„ JOINT EXHIBITION COM- MITTEE:—									
Travelling	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenses	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Totals	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Blyth	6	5	5	5	0	0	11	5	5
Derby	0	9	8	0	6	0	0	15	8
Manchester	2	5	1	1	10	0	3	15	1
Shipley	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	13	0
	9	7	2	7	2	0	16	9	2
General Printing							13	12	6
							30	1	8
„ RISE IN PRICES OF COMMODITIES COMMITTEE:—									
Manchester	6	11	8	4	1	0	10	12	8
							10	12	8
„ JOINT COMMITTEE—TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS:—									
Travelling	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenses	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Totals	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
London	8	17	0	4	0	0	12	17	0
Manchester	2	15	7	3	0	0	5	15	7
	11	12	7	7	0	0	18	12	7
Telegrams				0	4	11			
General Printing				2	19	6			
							21	17	0
„ JOINT COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE:—									
Manchester	0	9	5	1	10	0	1	19	5
General Printing							5	3	0
							7	2	5
„ DEFENCE COMMITTEE:—									
Manchester	6	3	4	4	10	0	10	13	4
							10	13	4
„ PIONEERS' MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:—									
Manchester	2	0	1	2	10	0	4	10	1
							4	10	1
„ “ HUGHES ” AND “ NEALE ”									
SCHOLARSHIP TRUSTEES:—									
Manchester	19	1	10	9	0	0	28	1	10
Oxford	5	14	10	2	10	0	8	4	10
	24	16	8	11	10	0	36	6	8
„ GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE									
SURVEY COMMITTEE:—									
Manchester	24	5	3	14	0	0	38	5	3
							38	5	3
„ WAGES, &C.:—									
Permanent Salaries—Manchester	2034	7	0						
„ „ Northern Section	251	8	4						
„ „ North-Western Section	211	13	4						
„ „ Scottish Section	393	6	8						
„ „ Southern Section	280	7	4						
„ „ Irish Propagandist Agent	158	6	8						
Honorariums—Midland Section	15	0	0						
„ South-Western Section	15	0	0						
„ Western Section	15	0	0						
Auditing	10	10	0						
				3385	0	1			
Allowance to Mrs. J. C. Gray				104	0	0			
„ NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE:—									
Manchester	4	12	3						
Northern Section	0	13	0						
Scottish Section	1	6	0						
Southern Section	0	13	0						
Irish Propagandist Agent	0	8	11						
				7	13	2			
•Carried forward				8672	18	10	32121	7	10

CASH ACCOUNT.

793

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	8672	18	10	32121	7	10
By GENERAL PRINTING:—						
Circulars, Stationery, &c.	750	0	6			
Pamphlets, Reports, Rules, Text Books, &c.	£2115	11	11			
Authors' Honorariums	262	16	0			
Publications	96	10	3			
Impressed Stamps	12	4	1			
				2487	2	3
Rates and Taxes	296	9	10			
Insurance	14	0	0			
				310	9	10
By MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:—						
Lighting	28	9	10			
Coke and Heating	24	8	4			
Office Cleaning	71	5	9			
Carriage	36	1	0			
Postages	433	18	0			
Telegrams	4	16	10			
Sundries	9	16	0			
Caretakers	20	3	6			
Co-operative News, Copies of	21	13	4			
Advertising	13	7	0			
Office Furniture and Repairs	213	2	8			
Legal Advice	235	0	7			
Opinions	21	14	6			
Special Law Cases: Caerau and Maesteg and						
Kilmore	474	11	3			
Translating and Reporting	1	18	6			
Paper and Twine	17	5	7			
Registrar's Lists and Reports	2	13	2			
Telephone Rents and Charges	24	9	6			
Telegraphic Address and Box	4	4	0			
Conference Teas	5	14	6			
Staff Picnic and Social	7	0	0			
Photo presented to Oriel College	11	16	0			
Irish Propaganda	99	16	2			
Scottish Propaganda	200	0	0			
Interest on Women's Guild Loan	12	0	0			
Railway Contract	53	7	0			
				2048	13	0
Grants to Scottish Women's Guild	150	0	0			
" Irish Women's Guild	30	0	0			
" Workers Educational Association	5	0	0			
" International Co-operative Alliance	50	0	0			
" Agricultural Organisation Society	20	0	0			
" Hodgson Pratt Memorial	5	0	0			
" War Emergency Workers' Fund	20	0	0			
				280	0	0
				14549	4	5

IRISH EXECUTIVE.

By EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:—	Travelling.	Expenses.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Armagh	1 19 9 ..	1 2 6 ..	3 2 3
Belfast	5 17 9 ..	4 2 6 ..	10 0 3
Dublin	— ..	2 2 6 ..	2 2 6
Dundalk	5 9 11 ..	1 15 0 ..	7 4 11
Lisburn	1 14 2 ..	1 2 6 ..	2 16 8
Portadown	3 9 3 ..	2 0 0 ..	5 9 3
	18 10 10	12 5 0	30 15 10
			30 15 10
By CONFERENCES, &c.:—			
Belfast	0 12 6 ..	1 7 6 ..	2 0 0
Cork	7 16 7 ..	3 10 0 ..	11 6 7
Dublin	3 5 2 ..	1 12 0 ..	4 17 8
Congress Reception Committee	38 19 3 ..	15 10 0 ..	54 9 3
" Congress	3 1 4 ..	9 10 0 ..	12 11 4
Dundalk	0 7 9 ..	0 2 6 ..	0 10 3
Carried forward ...	54 2 7	31 12 6	85 15 1
			30 15 10 46670 12 3

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	54	2	7	31	12	6	85	15	1	30	15	10	46	70	12 3
By CONFERENCES, &c.— <i>continued</i> :—															
Larne	0	6	6	0	2	6	0	9	0						
Manchester	2	3	6	1	10	0	3	13	6						
Middletown	0	4	3	0	2	6	0	6	9						
Newtownards	0	18	2	0	7	6	1	5	8						
	57	15	0	33	15	0	91	10	0						
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES :—										91	10	0			
General Printing							1	3	10						
Hire of Rooms							0	2	6						
										1	6	4			
										123	12	2			
													123	12	2

MIDLAND SECTION.

By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS :—							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Travelling							79	10	6						
Expenses							20	0	0						
										99	10	6			
CONFERENCES, &c. :—							Travelling.		Expenses.		Totals.				
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Acocks Green							0	3	6	0	2	6	0	6	0
Annesley							1	4	3	1	2	6	2	6	9
Atherstone							0	11	0	0	5	0	0	16	0
Awsworth							0	14	6	0	17	6	1	12	0
Balsall Heath							0	2	6	0	2	6	0	5	0
Barrow on Soar							0	2	0	0	2	6	0	4	6
Birmingham							4	16	0	3	2	6	7	18	6
" Women's Guild Con-															
gress & Committees							0	19	6	4	17	6	5	17	0
Bolsover							0	7	9	1	0	0	1	7	9
Bulwell							0	1	11	0	2	6	0	4	5
Burton-on-Trent							2	6	9	1	0	0	3	6	9
Cannock							0	4	6	0	10	0	0	14	6
Chesterfield							3	4	0	0	12	6	3	16	6
Cinderhill							1	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	2
Clay Cross							2	0	0	2	2	6	4	2	6
Cleethorpes							1	5	9	0	10	0	1	15	9
Coleshill							0	12	0	0	10	0	1	2	0
Collingham							0	5	6	0	10	0	0	15	6
Coventry							2	19	6	0	15	0	3	14	6
" Joint Meeting.										1	7	6	1	7	6
Craven Arms							0	14	3	0	10	0	1	4	3
Daventry							0	13	0	0	2	6	0	15	6
Denby							0	1	11	0	2	6	0	4	5
Derby							11	19	0	4	0	0	15	19	0
Erdington							0	12	0	0	10	0	1	2	0
Evendon							0	17	6	1	0	0	1	17	6
Evesham							1	0	9	0	10	0	1	10	9
Finedon							1	2	6	0	2	6	1	5	0
Foleshill							0	0	9	0	5	0	0	5	9
Gainsborough							1	3	0	0	12	6	1	15	6
Great Bridge							0	6	6	0	10	0	0	16	6
Great Doddington							0	15	9	0	10	0	1	5	9
Great Grimsby							1	18	9	2	0	0	3	18	9
Great Wigston							0	8	3	0	2	6	0	10	9
Grantham							0	14	3	0	2	6	0	16	9
Harborne							0	10	6	0	10	0	1	0	6
Harrowden							0	15	9	0	10	0	1	5	9
Hill Top							0	3	0	0	2	6	0	5	6
Hinckley							0	12	6	0	2	6	0	15	0
Holbeach							1	7	0	1	0	0	2	7	0
Ilkeston										0	10	0	0	10	0
Irthlingborough							0	19	6	1	0	0	1	19	6
Kenilworth							0	10	0	0	10	0	1	0	0
Kettering							0	15	8	0	2	6	0	18	2
Kidderminster							0	3	9	0	2	6	0	6	3
Carried forward ...							51	8	11	36	2	6	87	11	5
													99	10	6

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	51	8	11	36	2	6	87	11	5	99	10	6	46794	4	5
By CONFERENCES, &c.— <i>continued</i> :—															
Kirkby-in-Ashfield.....	1	1	9	1	0	0	2	1	9						
Langley Mill	0	8	6	0	2	6	0	11	0						
Lea and Holloway	1	0	3	1	2	6	2	2	9						
Leicester	10	4	2	3	5	0	13	9	2						
„ Convalescent Fund	1	16	0	0	10	0	2	6	0						
Lichfield	0	17	3	0	2	6	0	19	9						
Lincoln	4	3	11	1	2	6	5	6	5						
Long Buckby	2	4	5	1	5	0	3	9	5						
Long Eaton				0	5	0	0	5	0						
Loughborough	0	12	3	0	2	6	0	14	9						
Ludlow	1	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	0						
Malvern	0	1	9	0	2	6	0	4	3						
Mansfield	0	6	9	0	12	6	0	19	3						
Market Harborough....	0	2	9	0	2	6	0	5	3						
Markham.....	0	5	3	0	10	0	0	15	3						
Melton Mowbray	0	6	0	0	2	6	0	8	6						
Netherfield	0	1	5	0	2	6	0	3	11						
Newark	0	19	0	0	5	0	1	4	0						
Northampton	0	4	5	0	10	0	0	14	5						
Nottingham	2	4	11	1	15	0	3	19	11						
Oakengates	0	19	5	1	0	0	1	19	5						
Oakham	0	6	9	0	2	6	0	9	3						
Oswestry	4	3	1	0	10	0	4	13	1						
Peterborough	4	1	5	0	17	6	4	18	11						
Pilsley	0	14	0	0	12	6	1	6	6						
Pleasley	0	16	9	0	2	6	0	19	3						
Poolbrook	0	2	0	0	2	6	0	4	6						
Raunds	0	3	3	0	10	0	0	13	3						
Redditch	0	8	0	0	10	0	0	18	0						
Retford	0	18	3	1	0	0	1	18	3						
Riddings	0	12	0	0	10	0	1	2	0						
Ripley	0	4	9	0	10	0	0	14	9						
Rugby	1	10	6	0	5	0	1	15	6						
Rugeley	0	17	0	1	2	6	1	19	6						
Scunthorpe	2	14	9	1	12	6	4	7	3						
Shepshed	0	18	0	1	0	0	1	18	0						
Shrewsbury	6	18	10	1	10	0	8	8	10						
Smethwick	0	10	0	0	2	6	0	12	6						
Southwell	0	7	0	0	2	6	0	9	6						
Stafford	2	0	4	0	17	6	2	17	10						
Stanton Hill	0	8	3	0	7	6	0	15	9						
Stapleford	0	12	0	0	2	6	0	14	6						
Stirchley	0	7	3	0	2	6	0	9	9						
Stourport	0	3	6	0	2	6	0	6	0						
Sutton-in-Ashfield	1	3	3	1	10	0	2	13	3						
Thrapston	0	9	3	0	2	6	0	11	9						
Tibshelf	0	15	0	0	12	6	1	7	6						
Upper Gornal	0	3	0	0	2	6	0	5	6						
Walgrave	0	19	1	0	10	0	1	9	1						
Walsall	0	19	5	1	0	0	1	19	5						
Warwick	0	14	3	1	0	0	1	14	3						
Wednesbury	0	3	3	0	5	0	0	8	3						
Wilby	0	16	6	0	10	0	1	6	6						
Wirksworth	0	5	8	0	2	6	0	8	2						
Wombourne	0	4	0	0	10	0	0	14	0						
Woodborough	0	2	3	0	2	6	0	4	9						
Woolthorpe	0	7	11	0	10	0	0	17	11						
Worcester	2	0	3	1	2	6	3	2	9						
	119	12	10	71	17	6	191	10	4	191	10	4			
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES :—															
Northants and Earls Barton District Association..							9	14	6						
Wellingboro' and Kettering District Association...							14	3	4						
Leicester District Association							12	7	0						
Coventry District Association							13	18	3						
Birmingham District Association							12	13	4						
Stafford District Association							26	8	10						
Carried forward							89	5	3	291	0	10	46794	4	5

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward		89	5	3	291	0	10	46	7	4
By DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES— <i>continued</i> :—										
Derby District Association		13	5	3						
Nottingham District Association		19	17	4						
Lincoln District Association		20	18	3						
					143	6	1			
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES :—										
General Printing		17	11	3						
Postage, &c.		6	9	2						
Telegrams					0	12	4			
Bank Charges					0	16	6			
Convalescent Fund Expenses		12	2	6						
Treasurer's Honorarium		6	0	0						
					43	11	9			
					477	18	8			
								477	18	8

NORTHERN SECTION.

By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS :—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Travelling		23	10	5			
Expenses		10	5	0			
					33	15	5
„ OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS :—	Travelling.	Expenses.	Totals.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Newcastle	13 16 6	7 5 0	21 1 6				
				21	1	6	
„ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS :—							
Alston	2 7 3	0 16 6	3 3 9				
Amble	0 4 8		0 4 8				
Ashington	0 3 0	0 2 6	0 5 6				
Bebside	0 8 1	0 2 6	0 10 7				
Bedlington	1 12 8	0 17 6	2 10 2				
Belsay	0 1 0	0 2 6	0 3 6				
Bishop Auckland	0 8 0	0 5 0	0 13 0				
Blaydon	0 1 4	0 5 0	0 6 4				
Blyth	4 10 7	3 14 0	8 4 7				
Boldon Colliery	0 6 2	0 15 0	1 1 2				
Brandon	0 7 11	0 7 6	0 15 5				
Brandsby	0 6 0	0 3 6	0 9 6				
Brompton	0 4 10	0 2 6	0 7 4				
Carlisle	0 8 9	0 4 3	0 13 0				
Chester-le-Street	0 2 7	0 5 0	0 7 7				
Consett	0 8 6	0 7 6	0 16 0				
Coxhoe	0 5 6	0 5 0	0 10 6				
Darlington	0 5 9	1 0 0	1 5 9				
Dinnington	0 1 0	0 2 6	0 3 6				
Durham	0 2 5	0 2 6	0 4 11				
Easington Lane	0 5 8	0 6 3	0 11 11				
Gateshead	0 0 6	0 5 0	0 5 6				
Greenhead	0 5 9	0 3 6	0 9 3				
Haswell	0 3 3	0 2 6	0 5 9				
Hetton Downs	0 1 10	0 5 0	0 6 10				
Hexham	0 3 1		0 3 1				
Jarrow	0 5 11	0 5 0	0 10 11				
Keswick	1 11 2	0 5 0	1 16 2				
Leeds	2 8 3	0 9 6	2 17 9				
Loftus	0 4 7	0 2 6	0 7 1				
Long Framlington	1 8 7	0 18 3	2 6 10				
Longtown	0 10 0	0 8 6	0 18 6				
Maryport	0 14 8	0 4 3	0 18 11				
Middlesbrough	1 9 4	0 11 6	2 0 10				
Newbiggin	0 10 3	0 7 6	0 17 9				
Newburn	0 0 10	0 2 6	0 3 4				
Newcastle	4 5 1	4 7 6	8 12 7				
North Shields	0 2 2	0 2 6	0 4 8				
Otterburn	0 16 6	0 8 0	1 4 6				
Penrith	1 4 11	0 7 0	1 11 11				
Ryhope	0 2 3	0 2 6	0 4 9				
Saltburn	0 8 6	0 4 0	0 12 6				
Seaham Harbour	0 1 2	0 2 6	0 3 8				
Carried forward ...	30 0 3	20 11 6	50 11 9	54 16 11	47272.	3	1

CASH ACCOUNT.

737

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Brought forward ..	30	0	3	20	11	6	50	11	9	54	16	11	47	272	3	1
By CONFERENCES, &c.— <i>continued</i> :—																
Shotley Bridge	0	5	11	0	2	6	0	8	5							
South Shields	0	4	8	0	10	0	0	14	8							
Spennymoor	0	4	7	0	2	6	0	7	1							
Stockton	0	7	2	0	5	0	0	12	2							
Sunderland	0	1	9	0	2	6	0	4	3							
Tweedmouth	0	12	8	0	2	6	0	15	2							
Tyne Dock	0	1	0	0	2	6	0	3	6							
Walker	0	1	4	0	7	6	0	8	10							
West Hartlepoons	0	5	4	0	2	6	0	7	10							
West Wylam	0	1	6	0	2	6	0	4	0							
Windy Nook	0	14	0	0	15	0	1	9	0							
York	2	3	0	0	12	2	2	15	2							

35 3 2

23 18 8

59 1 10

59 1 10

„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES :—

North Northumberland District Association	8	1	11
South Northumberland District Association	5	11	6
Cumberland and Westmorland District Association	23	19	3
West Durham District Association	14	5	10
East Durham District Association	15	14	10
South Durham District Association	12	16	9
South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire D.A.	15	18	6

96 8 7

„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES :—

General Printing	42	15	5
Postage	20	10	0
Carriage	0	0	9
Office Cleaning	9	2	3
Rent	30	5	0
Coal, Gas, and Electricity	7	12	2
Telephone Rent and Charges	10	19	11
Telegrams	2	0	3
Telegraphic Address	1	1	0
Sundries	0	17	5
Office Furniture	18	5	9
Scottish Co-operator	2	7	3
Special Propaganda : Alston	5	5	0

151 2 2

361 9 6

361 9 6

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Travelling	113	19	7			
Expenses	31	17	6			

145 17 1

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
„ CONFERENCES :—									
Accrington	0	11	8	0	10	0	1	1	8
Ashton	0	1	6	0	5	0	0	6	6
Bamber Bridge	0	1	6	0	2	6	0	4	0
Bangor	0	15	5	0	6	6	1	1	11
Barnsley	0	5	11	0	4	1	0	10	0
„ Sectional Conf.	7	12	10	2	10	0	10	2	10
Barrow				0	5	0	0	5	0
Batley	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	8	0
Battleyford	0	2	5	0	2	6	0	4	11
Berry Brow	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3
Beverley	0	12	9	0	2	6	0	15	3
Birkenhead	0	7	10	0	2	6	0	10	4
Birkenshaw	0	2	2	0	2	6	0	4	8
Blackburn	0	4	2	0	2	6	0	6	8
Blackpool	0	16	1	0	5	0	1	1	1
Bolton	0	1	2	0	5	0	0	6	2
Bradford	0	13	10	1	8	6	2	2	4
Brooksbottoms	0	3	3	0	2	6	0	5	9
Buckley	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	11	0

Carried forward ... 13 2 3

7 9 1

20 11 4

145 17 1

47033 12 7

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	13	2	3	7	9	1	20	11	4	145	17	1	47	633	12 7
By CONFERENCES, &c.— <i>continued</i> :—															
Burnley—Sectional Conf	4	14	4	2	7	0	7	1	4						
Bury	0	1	7	0	2	6	0	4	1						
Burslem	0	4	3	0	2	6	0	6	9						
Butt Lane	1	0	5	0	7	0	1	7	5						
Coedpoeth	—	—	—	0	5	0	0	5	0						
Colwyn Bay	—	—	—	0	7	6	0	7	6						
Congleton	0	3	9	0	2	6	0	6	3						
Crewe	1	8	10	0	11	0	1	19	10						
Crigglestone	0	1	0	0	2	6	0	3	6						
Dalton	0	7	9	0	10	0	0	17	9						
Darwen	0	8	1	0	7	0	0	15	1						
Delph	0	2	0	0	3	6	0	5	6						
Denbigh	0	7	6	0	2	6	0	10	0						
Denton	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	8	0						
Dewsbury	0	10	2	0	11	0	1	1	2						
Dolgarrog	1	3	0	0	10	0	1	13	0						
Doncaster	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	8	0						
Driffield	0	11	3	0	2	6	0	13	9						
Eagley	0	0	6	0	2	6	0	3	0						
Edenfield	0	1	8	0	2	6	0	4	2						
Ellesmere Port	0	6	1	0	2	6	0	8	7						
Farnworth	0	0	6	0	2	6	0	3	0						
Fleetwood	0	4	6	0	2	6	0	7	0						
Great Harwood	0	3	3	0	2	6	0	5	9						
Glossop	0	5	8	0	5	0	0	10	8						
Golcar	0	2	0	0	2	6	0	4	6						
Grange Moor	0	3	0	0	2	6	0	5	6						
Grasscroft	0	1	10	0	2	6	0	4	4						
Gregson's Lane	0	5	0	0	2	6	0	7	6						
Harrogate	0	12	7	0	2	6	0	15	1						
Heckmondwike—															
Sectional Conference	6	3	4	2	4	6	8	7	10						
Helmshore	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	5	5						
Heywood	0	3	6	0	11	0	0	14	6						
Higher Hurst	0	1	8	0	2	6	0	4	2						
Horwich	0	7	7	0	10	0	0	17	7						
Huddersfield	0	14	9	0	17	6	0	12	3						
Hull	0	11	0	0	2	6	0	13	6						
Junction	0	4	5	0	2	6	0	6	11						
Kendal	0	7	1	0	2	6	0	9	7						
Kirkham	0	2	0	0	2	6	0	4	6						
Lancaster	0	5	3	0	2	6	0	7	9						
Leeds—Sectional Conf.	9	0	8	4	10	0	13	10	8						
Lees	0	7	3	0	15	4	1	2	7						
Lees and Cross Roads	0	1	9	0	2	6	0	4	3						
Leigh	0	10	8	0	15	0	1	5	8						
Littleborough	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3						
Liverpool	3	14	3	1	18	4	5	12	7						
" Peace Conf. ..	0	7	10	1	10	0	1	17	10						
Llanfairfechan	0	16	10	0	10	0	1	6	10						
Llangristiolus	1	1	9	0	10	0	1	11	9						
Macclesfield	0	12	0	0	5	0	0	17	0						
Manchester	4	2	2	4	8	6	8	10	8						
Joint Mtg.	—	—	—	4	15	0	4	15	0						
Mirfield	0	2	8	0	5	0	0	7	8						
Mold	0	3	6	0	2	6	0	6	0						
Mossley	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	11	0						
Mytholmroyd	0	8	0	0	7	6	0	15	6						
Nelson	0	5	6	0	6	0	0	11	6						
Northoppe	0	2	0	0	2	6	0	4	6						
Oldham	0	14	0	1	13	6	2	7	6						
Oswestry	1	12	3	0	10	0	2	2	3						
Pendleton & Prestwich	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	9	0						
Pocklington	0	9	3	0	2	6	0	11	9						
Portmadoc & Bethesda	1	6	9	1	0	0	2	6	9						
Preston	0	5	2	0	11	0	0	16	2						
Queensferry	1	5	2	0	12	6	1	17	8						
Radcliffe	0	1	1	0	2	6	0	3	7						
Rochdale	—	—	—	0	10	0	0	10	0						
Carried forward ...	64	1	0	48	6	3	112	7	3	145	17	1	47	633	12 7

CASH ACCOUNT.

739

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	64	1	0	48	6	3	112	7	3	145	17	1
By CONFERENCES, &C.—continued:—										476	33	12
Rotherham	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	7	0			
Scarborough	0	14	0	0	2	6	0	16	6			
Selby	0	3	3	0	2	6	0	5	9			
Sheffield	0	13	0	0	11	0	0	4	0			
Shrewsbury	5	18	9	1	5	0	7	3	9			
Sowerby Bridge	0	4	3	0	10	0	0	14	3			
Stalybridge	0	1	11	0	5	0	0	6	11			
Stockport—Sect'l. Conf.	6	12	3	2	11	0	9	3	3			
Stocksbridge	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	9	0			
Swinton				0	2	6	0	2	6			
Todmorden	0	1	3	0	2	6	0	3	9			
Tunstead	0	1	6	0	2	6	0	4	0			
Tyldesley	0	1	6	0	2	6	0	4	0			
Ulverston	0	6	6	0	7	6	0	14	0			
Uppermill	0	1	10	0	2	6	0	4	4			
Wakefield	0	9	4	0	2	6	0	11	10			
Walmer Bridge	0	1	6	0	2	6	0	4	0			
Water	0	4	6	0	6	9	0	11	3			
Waterfoot	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	7	0			
Whaley Bridge	0	2	0	0	10	6	0	12	6			
Whitworth	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3			
Windhill	0	7	8	0	7	0	0	14	8			
York	0	5	3	0	2	6	0	7	9			
	81	0	0	57	2	6	138	2	6			

138 2 6

HOURS AND WAGES BOARD

MEETINGS:—

Batley	0	10	6	0	17	6	1	8	0
Berry Brow				0	2	6	0	2	6
Blackley	0	1	8	0	2	6	0	4	2
Bolton				0	2	6	0	2	6
Butt Lane	0	2	2	0	2	6	0	4	8
Cawl Terrace	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3
Golcar				0	2	6	0	2	6
Haslingden				0	2	6	0	2	6
Heywood	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3
Huddersfield	0	1	3	0	5	0	0	6	3
Macclesfield	0	6	3	0	2	6	0	8	9
Manchester	1	15	5	3	17	6	5	12	11
Oldham	0	5	3	0	17	6	1	2	9
Preston				0	2	6	0	2	6
Sheffield	0	9	0	0	7	6	0	16	6
Shipley	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3
Sowerby Bridge	0	1	3	0	2	6	0	3	9
Whitworth	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3
	3	15	9	7	17	6	11	13	3

11 13 3

BOUNDARIES SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETINGS:—

Arnsley				1	7	6	1	7	6
Barnsley	3	0	5	1	15	0	4	15	5
Burslem	1	19	5	0	11	6	2	10	11
Cefn	1	6	10	0	10	6	1	17	4
Chesterfield	4	15	3	1	13	0	6	8	3
Manchester	0	9	0	3	6	0	3	15	0
Rotherham	0	18	8	0	6	0	1	4	8
Stockport	0	8	10	0	9	6	0	18	4
Styal	0	9	8	0	9	6	0	19	2
Wakefield	1	1	10	0	8	6	1	10	4
	14	9	11	10	17	0	25	6	11

25 6 11

DEMONSTRATION AND CHOIRS

COMMITTEE:—

Blackley	1	14	0	1	0	0	2	14	0
Bury	1	5	11	0	11	0	1	16	11
Leigh	1	0	1	0	13	6	1	13	7

Carried forward ... 4 0 0 2 4 6 6 4 6 320 19 9 47633 12 7

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	4	0	0	2	4	6	6	4	6	320	10	9
By DEMONSTRATION AND CHOIRS										47	633	12
COMMITTEE—continued:—												
Manchester	0	17	1	0	13	6	1	10	7			
Shipley	2	17	2	1	0	0	3	17	2			
Warrington	1	19	2	0	13	6	2	12	8			
	9	13	5	4	11	6	14	4	11			
										14	4	11
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES:—												
Airedale District Association							28	10	2			
Bolton District Association							23	2	2			
Calderdale District Association							16	19	1			
Cheshire and North Wales District Association ..							41	2	0			
Dewsbury District Association							35	7	8			
East Yorkshire District Association							41	17	11			
Huddersfield District Association							27	14	1			
Macclesfield, Crewe, and District Association ...							31	1	9			
Manchester District Association							21	10	11			
North-East Lancashire District Association							29	17	11			
North Lancashire District Association							23	16	3			
North Lonsdale District Association							27	14	8			
Oldham District Association							25	16	4			
Rochdale District Association							22	4	0			
Rossendale District Association							17	10	10			
South Yorkshire District Association							35	10	10			
										449	16	7
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:—												
General Printing							147	1	4			
Postage							33	4	7			
Telegrams							0	11	4			
Carriage							0	4	4			
Sundries							2	16	4			
Impressed Stamps and Map							1	8	6			
Bank Charges							1	2	0			
Hand Bag							0	13	11			
Blackpool Week-end Expenses							3	12	0			
										190	14	4
										975	15	7
												975 15 7

SCOTTISH SECTION.

By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS:—				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Travelling				42	0	11			
Expenses				20	2	6			
							62	3	5
„ SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS:—									
Glasgow	31	16	6	18	15	0	50	11	6
							50	11	6
„ EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:—									
Edinburgh	0	0	6	0	10	0	0	10	6
Glasgow	6	6	11	4	15	0	11	1	11
	6	7	5	5	5	0	11	12	5
„ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS:—									
Aberdeen	1	8	10	0	5	0	1	13	10
Alloa	4	12	6	5	0	0	9	12	6
Barrhead	0	16	9	0	10	0	1	6	9
Bathgate	1	0	3	0	5	0	1	5	3
Blairgowrie	1	2	0	0	2	6	1	4	6
Buckhaven	0	6	6	0	2	6	0	9	0
Buckie	4	0	3	4	0	0	8	0	3
Burnbank	0	19	0	0	5	0	1	4	0
Cambuslang	0	0	11	0	2	6	0	3	5
Condorrat	2	19	8	0	16	0	3	15	8

Carried forward ... 17 6 8 11 8 6 28 15 2 124 7 4 48609 8 2

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	17	6	8	11	8	6	28	15	2	124	7	4	48609	8	2
By CONFERENCES, &c.— <i>continued</i> :—															
Darvel	0	14	3	0	6	0	1	0	3						
Drumchapel	0	1	6	0	2	6	0	4	0						
Dunblane	1	15	8	0	5	0	2	0	8						
Dundee	3	2	10	0	10	0	3	12	10						
Dunfermline	1	15	8	0	7	6	2	3	2						
Edinburgh	6	1	6	2	18	0	8	19	6						
Falkirk	0	10	7	0	5	0	0	15	7						
Galashiels	1	13	10	0	5	0	1	18	10						
Gilbertfield	0	0	6	0	3	6	0	4	0						
Glasgow	18	4	8	16	17	0	35	1	8						
Glenboig	0	19	0	0	17	0	1	16	0						
Grangemouth	0	9	11	0	5	0	0	14	11						
Guard Bridge	0	10	0	0	2	6	0	12	6						
Hallside	0	1	0	0	2	6	0	3	6						
Hamilton	0	9	9	0	5	0	0	14	9						
Jedburgh	0	14	0	0	2	6	0	16	6						
Kilmarnock	0	13	2	0	5	0	0	18	2						
Kirkcaldy	0	15	11	0	5	0	1	0	11						
Kirkintilloch	0	9	8	0	5	0	0	14	8						
Larkhall	0	10	2	0	5	0	0	15	2						
Leslie	0	16	9	0	5	0	1	1	9						
Leven	0	19	0	0	5	0	1	4	0						
Markinch	1	9	0	0	5	0	1	14	0						
Menstrie	0	19	10	0	5	0	1	4	10						
Milngavie	0	7	8	0	5	0	0	12	8						
Monifieth	1	14	0	0	5	0	1	19	0						
Motherwell	0	9	2	0	5	0	0	14	2						
Paisley	2	0	7	1	10	0	3	10	7						
Parkhead	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	10	0						
Patna	0	14	10	0	6	0	1	0	10						
Pollokshaws	0	9	3	0	8	6	0	17	9						
Port Glasgow	0	2	0	0	2	6	0	4	6						
Portbello	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	6	0						
Prestwick	0	19	4	0	5	0	1	4	4						
Pumpherstoun	0	10	0	0	5	0	0	15	0						
Shotts	0	8	4	0	2	6	0	10	10						
Springburn	0	6	9	0	5	0	0	11	9						
Stewarton	0	7	10	0	6	0	0	13	10						
Thornliebank	0	0	11	0	2	6	0	3	5						
Troon	0	11	0	0	5	0	0	16	0						
Walkerburn	1	12	6	0	5	0	1	17	6						
West Kilbride	0	2	7	1	0	0	1	2	7						
Wishaw	0	6	6	0	2	6	0	9	0						
	72	14	1	43	13	0	116	7	1	116	7	1			

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION GRANTS :—

Ayrshire District Association	3	0	0
Border Counties District Association	3	0	0
Central District Association	3	0	0
East of Scotland District Association	3	0	0
Falkirk District Association	3	0	0
Fife and Kinross District Association	3	0	0
Glasgow and Suburbs District Association	3	0	0
Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen District Association	3	0	0
Renfrewshire District Association	3	0	0
Stirling, West of Fife & Clackmannan District A...	3	0	0

30 0 0

.. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES :—

General Printing	46	1	11
Postages	29	16	3
Carriage	0	19	3
Telegrams	0	11	5
Sundries	1	7	7
Telephone, Rent, and Charges	10	7	2
Cleaning and Caretakers	38	10	8
Gas, Coal, and Electricity	18	19	4
Rates and Taxes	13	6	1

Carried forward159 19 8 270 14 5 48609 8 2

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	08	3	6	40	12	3
Brought forward ..	47	19	1	24	16	1	72	15	2						
By CONFERENCES, &c.— <i>continued</i> —															
Farnham	0	11	6	0	2	6	0	14	0						
Faversham	1	7	6	0	2	6	1	10	0						
Fawkham	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	9	0						
Frimley	0	6	0	0	5	6	0	11	6						
Fulham	0	11	1	0	2	6	0	13	7						
Godstone	0	7	6	0	2	6	0	10	0						
Gravesend	0	13	3	0	5	0	0	18	3						
Grays	0	5	7	0	2	6	0	8	1						
Greenstreet	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	14	0						
Guildford	0	5	6	0	4	9	0	10	3						
Hampstead	0	1	0	0	2	6	0	3	6						
Hampton	0	13	1	0	2	6	0	15	7						
Hastings	2	7	3	1	0	0	3	7	3						
Haywards Heath	0	10	5	0	2	6	0	12	11						
Hendon	0	3	0	0	2	6	0	5	6						
High Wycombe	0	6	11	0	5	0	0	11	11						
Ipswich	1	1	11	1	3	0	2	4	11						
Kilburn				0	7	6	0	7	6						
Leamington	0	15	1	0	13	6	1	8	7						
Letchworth	0	18	5	0	2	6	1	0	11						
Lewes	0	13	3	0	5	0	0	18	3						
Littleport	0	5	3	0	10	0	0	15	3						
London	26	9	10	15	9	0	41	18	10						
Educational	13	15	6	3	12	6	17	8	0						
Lowestoft—Nat. Union															
of Teachers	0	14	6	3	0	0	3	14	6						
Luton	0	5	4	0	5	6	0	10	10						
Lynn	0	10	6	0	10	0	1	0	6						
Maidenhead	0	11	0	0	12	0	1	3	0						
Maldstone	0	7	8	0	10	0	0	17	8						
Maldon	0	1	6	0	10	0	0	11	6						
Margate	1	0	7	0	10	0	1	10	7						
Melton Constable	0	18	3	0	10	0	1	8	3						
Millbank	0	9	10	0	2	6	0	12	4						
Newhaven	0	16	1	0	10	0	1	6	1						
Newmarket	0	3	9	0	2	6	0	6	3						
Newport Pagnell	1	5	10	0	10	0	1	15	10						
Norwich	0	19	2	0	7	6	1	6	8						
Olney	0	10	1	0	5	6	0	15	7						
Oxford	2	10	1	0	19	0	3	9	1						
Peckham	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	2	6						
Penge	0	6	7	0	14	6	1	1	1						
Petersfield	1	8	3	1	0	0	2	8	3						
Purfleet	0	5	3	0	2	6	0	7	9						
Reading	2	8	11	0	5	0	2	13	11						
Redhill	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	11	0						
Rochester	0	5	8	0	8	6	0	14	2						
Roxton	0	17	0	0	10	0	1	7	0						
Royston	0	11	3	0	10	0	1	1	3						
Ryde	1	14	10	1	0	0	2	14	10						
St. Albans	0	12	0	0	2	6	0	14	6						
St. Mary Cray	0	9	2	0	10	0	0	19	2						
St. Neots	0	11	3	0	4	6	0	15	9						
Salisbury	3	18	3	2	1	0	5	19	3						
Shanklin	1	19	6	0	10	0	2	9	6						
Sheerness	1	11	6	0	16	6	2	8	0						
Sittingbourne	0	9	4	0	13	8	1	3	0						
Slough	1	1	11	0	5	0	1	6	11						
Southall	0	2	1	0	7	6	0	9	7						
Southampton	1	1	8	0	10	0	1	11	8						
South Norwood	0	2	2	0	10	0	0	12	2						
Staines	0	6	0	0	8	0	0	14	0						
Stevenage	0	18	11	0	10	0	1	8	11						
Stony Stratford	0	14	10	0	2	6	0	17	4						
Stowmarket	2	16	7	1	2	6	3	19	1						
Stratford	0	12	9	0	2	6	0	15	3						
Sutton	2	8	1	2	1	6	4	9	7						
Swaffham	1	9	3	0	10	0	1	19	3						
Swindon	5	6	4	0	10	0	5	16	4						
Carried forward	146	19	11	76	12	6	223	12	5	98	3	6	40	12	3

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	146	19	11	76	12	6	223	12	5	98	3	6
By CONFERENCES, &c.—continued :—												
Tilbury	0	5	11	0	2	6	0	8	5			
Tiptree	4	16	0	1	0	0	5	16	0			
Tonbridge	2	3	7	1	10	0	3	13	7			
Trowbridge	1	11	6	0	9	0	2	0	6			
Walton	0	18	6	1	0	0	1	18	6			
Wealdstone	0	16	9	0	2	6	0	19	3			
Westbury	0	15	0	0	10	0	1	5	0			
West London	0	2	2	0	17	0	0	19	2			
Weymouth	3	7	3	1	0	0	4	7	3			
Wickham Market	0	4	0	0	10	0	0	14	0			
Winchester	2	17	11	1	0	0	3	17	11			
Windsor	3	0	9	1	15	0	4	15	9			
Witham	0	7	6	0	2	6	0	10	0			
Woking	0	4	4	0	5	0	0	9	4			
Wolverton	3	11	11	2	5	0	5	16	11			
Yarmouth	2	1	6	1	4	0	3	5	6			
Yeldham	0	18	0	0	10	0	1	8	0			
	175	2	6	90	15	0	265	17	6			
										265	17	6
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES :—												
North Metropolitan District Association							17	0	10			
South Metropolitan District Association							23	9	4			
Sussex District Association							24	12	1			
Hants. District Association							42	6	1			
Wiltshire and Dorsetshire District Association							22	2	4			
Oxford District Association							19	15	7			
Cambridge District Association							17	1	6			
Norfolk District Association							26	14	1			
Essex and Suffolk District Association							16	9	7			
Beds. and Bucks. District Association							18	6	4			
										227	17	9
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES :—												
General Printing							91	7	8			
Carriage							2	5	6			
Postage							34	1	7			
Telegrams							1	0	1			
Sundries							0	18	0			
Telephone, Rent, and Charges							4	15	2			
Rent							40	0	0			
Office Furniture							6	2	4			
Conference Paper Readers' Expenses							2	2	0			
Special Propaganda—Kilburn							3	6	6			
„ „ Sutton							4	17	10			
										190	16	8
										782	15	5
										782	15	5

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS :—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Travelling	37	2	11			
Expenses	12	10	0			
				49	12	11
„ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS :—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Axminster	1	19	6	0	12	6
Barnstaple	2	19	9	1	10	0
Bickington	0	8	2	0	2	6
Bleadon	0	4	6	0	2	6
Bodmin	0	15	2	0	5	0
Brixham	0	19	0	0	10	0
Bristol	3	4	6	1	5	0
Budleigh Salterton	0	19	0	0	10	0
Camborne	1	13	4	0	5	0
Charlton Horethorne	0	13	0	0	10	0
Chudleigh	0	19	6	1	0	0
Colyton	0	19	6	0	10	0
				1	9	6
Carried forward ...	15	14	11	7	2	6
				22	17	5
				49	12	11
				49	06	14
				8		

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	15	14	11	7	2	6	22	17	5	49	12	11	49	06	14 8
By CONFERENCES, &c.—continued:—															
Cornwood	0	2	3	0	2	6	0	4	9						
Cullompton	0	16	4	0	2	6	0	18	10						
Darite	0	7	6	0	5	0	0	12	6						
Dawlish	0	10	1	0	2	6	0	12	7						
Delabole	1	4	6	1	0	0	2	4	6						
Exeter	3	13	5	0	12	6	4	5	11						
Exmouth	1	12	3	0	5	0	1	17	3						
Frome	1	11	11	0	10	0	2	1	11						
Harbertonford	0	3	0	0	10	0	0	13	0						
Honiton	2	11	4	1	10	0	4	1	4						
Ilfracombe	2	8	3	1	0	0	3	8	3						
Ipplepen	0	15	9	0	10	0	1	5	9						
Ivybridge	0	2	10	0	2	6	0	5	4						
Liskeard	0	7	6	0	5	0	0	12	6						
Lostwithiel	1	15	5	1	7	6	3	2	11						
Minehead	1	7	0	1	0	0	2	7	0						
Menheniot	0	3	9	0	2	6	0	6	3						
Newton Abbot	1	3	11	0	2	6	1	6	5						
Okehampton	0	16	0	0	12	6	1	8	6						
Paignton	1	8	2	0	5	0	1	13	2						
Penzance	0	18	6	0	2	6	1	1	0						
Plymouth	0	15	0	1	10	0	2	5	0						
Plympton	0	0	9	0	2	6	0	3	3						
Portishead	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	11	0						
St. Austell	0	8	3	0	2	6	0	10	9						
St. Breward	4	1	9	1	15	0	5	16	9						
St. Columb Road	0	12	6	0	2	6	0	15	0						
St. Dennis	0	11	0	0	10	0	1	1	0						
Sidmouth	0	15	0	0	2	6	0	17	6						
South Malton	1	19	6	1	0	0	2	19	6						
Taunton Convalescent F. ..	1	0	10	0	2	6	1	3	4						
Tavistock	0	4	2	0	2	6	0	6	8						
Teignmouth	0	9	3	0	2	6	0	11	9						
Templecombe	2	9	3	1	10	0	3	19	3						
Tiverton	0	8	0	0	10	0	0	18	0						
Torquay	1	6	11	0	5	0	1	11	11						
Truro	1	5	6	0	5	0	1	10	6						
Twerton	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	11	0						
Weston-super-Mare	1	12	3	0	5	0	1	17	3						
	58	6	6	26	10	0	84	16	6				84	16	6

„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES:—

Cornwall District Association	22	3	11
Devon District Association	5	0	0
Bristol and Somerset District Association	18	9	9

45 13 8

„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:—

General Printing	12	17	6
Postage	3	12	5
Hire of Rooms	0	6	0
Hand Bag	0	5	9
Convalescent Fund Expenses	4	8	4
Treasurer's Honorarium	3	3	0
Special Propaganda	5	1	5

29 14 5

209 17 6

209 17 6

WESTERN SECTION.

By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS:—

Travelling	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenses	38	1	7	9	10	0

47 11 7

„ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS:—

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aberaman	2	7	8	0	17	6	3	5	2						
Aberavon	0	15	9	0	2	6	0	18	3						

Carried forward ...

3 3 5

1 0 0

4 3 5

47 11 7

50116 12 2

CASH ACCOUNT.

	Travelling.			Expenses.			Totals.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Brought forward ...	3	3	5	1	0	0	4	3	5	47	11	7	50	16	2
By CONFERENCES, &c.—continued :—															
Aberdare	0	17	6	0	10	0	1	7	6						
Barry	2	4	2	0	10	0	2	14	2						
„ Convalescent Fund				0	5	0	0	5	0						
Blaenavon	1	15	11	1	5	0	3	0	11						
Blaengarw	0	12	3	0	2	6	0	14	9						
Blaina				0	2	6	0	2	6						
Brecon	1	8	6	0	15	0	2	3	6						
Bristol	1	1	10	0	2	6	1	4	4						
Cardiff	7	15	1	2	10	0	10	5	1						
„ Joint Meetings				1	10	0	1	10	0						
„ Convalescent Fd.	1	15	9	0	10	0	2	5	9						
Cheltenham	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	8	0						
Cirencester	0	6	0	0	2	6	0	8	6						
Cwmbach	0	9	0	0	5	0	0	14	0						
Cwmtwrch				0	2	6	0	2	6						
Deri	0	9	9	0	2	6	0	12	3						
Exeter	1	8	3	0	2	6	1	10	9						
Felinfoel	1	8	3	0	15	0	2	3	3						
Garndiffaith	0	5	6	0	2	6	0	8	0						
Gloucester	1	9	9	0	5	0	1	14	9						
Glyncorrwg	0	6	1	0	2	6	0	8	7						
Griffithstown	0	14	4	0	10	0	1	4	4						
Hereford	0	7	6	0	2	6	0	10	0						
Kemble	1	6	0	0	5	0	1	11	0						
Kenfig Hill	0	13	3	0	10	0	1	3	3						
Leominster	0	10	8	0	2	6	0	13	2						
Llandrindod and															
Machynlleth	1	6	6	1	10	0	2	16	6						
Llanelli	0	2	10	0	2	6	0	5	4						
Lower Cwmtwrch	0	6	6	0	5	0	0	11	6						
Newent	0	18	0	0	2	6	1	0	6						
Newport	4	11	3	1	10	0	6	1	3						
Oswestry	2	18	3	0	5	0	3	3	3						
Penygraig	0	1	0	0	2	6	0	3	6						
Pontardawe	0	4	6	0	5	0	0	9	6						
Pontnewydd	0	14	5	0	2	6	0	16	11						
Pontypool	6	1	1	3	2	6	9	3	7						
Risca	0	3	0	0	2	6	0	5	6						
Shrewsbury	10	0	9	1	7	6	11	8	3						
Skewen	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	8	0						
Stroud	1	2	2	0	2	6	1	4	8						
Swansea	3	12	0	1	17	6	5	9	6						
„ Sectional Conf.	3	8	5	0	15	0	4	3	5						
„ Convalescent F.				0	5	0	0	5	0						
Talbach	1	9	4	0	12	6	2	1	10						
Ton				0	2	6	0	2	6						
Welshpool	1	8	6	0	10	0	1	18	6						
	69	3	3	26	5	0	95	8	3						
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES :—										95	8	3			
Gloucester and Hereford District Association							16	14	2						
Brecon, Monmouth, and East Glamorgan Dis. Asso.							17	16	0						
West Wales District Association							16	6	1						
Mid-Glamorgan District Association							22	7	8						
										73	3	11			
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES :—															
General Printing							15	0	3						
Postage							4	17	1						
Telegrams							0	5	10						
Hand Bag							1	1	0						
Hire of Rooms							2	13	0						
Treasurer's Honorarium							3	3	0						
Convalescent Fund Expenses							5	1	6						
										32	1	8			
										248	5	5			
													248	5	5
Carried forward										£50364 17 7					

CASH ACCOUNT.

747

	£ s. d.
Brought forward	50364 17 7

BALANCES.

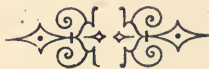
	£ s. d.
By Cash in hand of Treasurer of Irish Executive	10 0 0
" " " Midland Section	35 10 4
" " " Northern Section	36 2 2
" " " Scottish Section	32 19 4
" " " South-Western Section	26 2 8
" " " Cashier—Central Office	20 19 5
	162 2 11
	£50527 0 6

Dr.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

Cr.

<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1st January, 1914 :—</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ s. d.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4489 19 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31st December, 1914 :—</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Deposits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28083 16 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Dividend</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40 15 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">138 3 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;">£32752 15 3</td> </tr> </table>	1st January, 1914 :—	£ s. d.	To Balance	4489 19 3	31st December, 1914 :—		„ Deposits	28083 16 9	„ Dividend	40 15 8	„ Interest	138 3 7		£32752 15 3	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>31st December, 1914 :—</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ s. d.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>By Withdrawals</td> <td style="text-align: right;">22216 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Commission</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15 13 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Cheque Book</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0 2 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Balance—</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ s. d.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Union Fund 5393 2 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>„ Belgian F'd. 5127 14 7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;">10520 16 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 3px double black;">£32752 15 3</td> </tr> </table>	31st December, 1914 :—	£ s. d.	By Withdrawals	22216 2 3	„ Commission	15 13 9	„ Cheque Book	0 2 6	„ Balance—	£ s. d.	„ Union Fund 5393 2 2		„ Belgian F'd. 5127 14 7			10520 16 9		£32752 15 3
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„ Belgian F'd. 5127 14 7																																	
	10520 16 9																																
	£32752 15 3																																



HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Dr.

FUND ACCOUNT.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Scholarship Fund	2000	0	0	By Investment in Co-operative Wholesale Society	1360	0	0
				" " Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	640	0	0
	£2000	0	0		£2000	0	0

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1914.				1914.			
To Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 1st January, 1914 ..	30	0	1	By Cash paid to Scholar during the year	66	13	4
" Interest received during the year:—				" Cash in hands Co-operative Union, 31st December, 1914 ..	43	2	3
English Wholesale Society ..	£54	5	0				
Scottish Wholesale Society	25	10	6				
	79	15	6				
	£109	15	7		£109	15	7

NEALE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

FUND ACCOUNT.		CR.	
Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
To Scholarship Fund	2000 0 0	By Investment in Co-operative Wholesale Society	1300 0 0
		" " Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	700 0 0
	<u>£2000 0 0</u>		<u>£2000 0 0</u>
INTEREST ACCOUNT.			
	£ s. d.	1914. £ s. d.	
To Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 1st January, 1914....	121 18 11	By Cash paid to Scholar during the year	100 0 0
" Interest received during the year:—		" Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 31st December, 1914..	101 14 7
English Wholesale Society.....	£51 17 2		
Scottish Wholesale Society.....	27 18 6		
	<u>79 15 8</u>		<u>£201 14 7</u>
	<u>£201 14 7</u>		

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.
Share Capital, as per last report	326 15 0		Stock-in-Trade—Estimated	982 0 7
" " received since	6 15 0		INVESTMENTS:—	
Less amount extinguished.....	5 0 0	328 10 0	Shares—Co-op. Wholesale Society, as per last report.....	1290 0 0
Accounts owing—Printing Publications.....	109 1 9		Loans—Co-op. Wholesale Soc., as per last report £878 16 1	
Expenses.....	107 16 8		Share and Loan Interest, and Trade Dividend, 1914	165 10 8
Cash owing to "Neale" Scholarship Fund		216 18 5	Shares—Scottish Wholesale Soc., as per last report 709 18 10	1044 6 9
" " "Hughes"		101 14 7	Interest and Dividend, 1914	37 3 11
" " "University Scholars' Maintenance Fund		43 2 3	Shares—Co-operative Printing Society	747 2 9
" " "Blandford" Memorial Fund		29 1 0	Shares and Loans—Kinning Park Co-op. Society, as per last report	50 0 0
Loan on Women's Co-operative Guild		56 11 8	Interest and Dividend, 1914	£21 6 2
Cash owing to Belgian Distress Fund		900 0 0		1 15 10
Cash due to North-Western Fictional Secretary		5127 14 7	Shares Co-operative Newspaper Society	23 2 0
" " Southern		1 15 1	Loans—Co-operative Newspaper Society, as per last report.....	50 0 0
" " Western		11 3 7	Share and Loan Interest, 1914	£68 10 5
Balance		12 17 8		4 0 6
		8899 2 0	Shares—Manchester and Salford Co-op. Society, as per last report	72 10 11
			Interest, 1914	4 9 5
				0 2 8
			Accounts owing for Pamphlets Rule-, &c.	
			Cash in Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank — Union's Account	£5333 2 2
			Belgian Distress Fund	5127 14 7
			Cash in hand as per Cash Account	10520 16 9
			" " hands of District Secretaries—North-Western Section	162 2 11
				96 0 0
				£15128 10 10

I have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Co-operative Union for the financial year ended 31st December, 1914, and compared all counterfoils of acknowledgments for cash received, and vouchers for all payments made, and hereby certify the above statement of accounts as correct.

T: WOOD,
PUBLIC AUDITOR.

Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

HOLYOAKE MEMORIAL.

Statement of Accounts of the New Building Fund up to 31st December, 1914.

CASH ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	25807	8	6	By Land and Buildings	22362	7	10
„ Transfer (Owen Memorial Fund)	90	13	8	„ Furniture and Fittings	1088	3	5
„ Sewering Expense, repaid	32	0	0	„ Chief Rents	21	2	2
„ Rent	419	3	4	„ Rates, Cleaning, and Insurance	486	12	2
„ Bank Withdrawals	24693	13	2	„ Opening Expenses	204	9	5
				„ Removal Charges	61	15	6
				„ Sewering and other expenses	39	4	3
				„ Subscriptions refunded	5	12	0
				„ „Holyoake Memorial” Grave	237	5	0
				„ Expenses on Property (old)	371	13	3
				„ Bank Deposits	26165	13	8
	£51042	18	8		£51042	18	8

BANK ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Deposits	26165	13	8	By Withdrawals	24693	13	2
„ Bank Dividend	£220	0	1	„ Interest (overdraft)	£69	7	2
„ Trade Dividend	209	0	0	„ Commission and			
„ Interest	1078	14	11	„ Cheques	12	8	10
	1507	15	0	„ Stamping Agreements	5	0	0
					86	16	0
	£27673	8	8	„ Balance	2892	19	6
					£27673	8	8

PROPERTY REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Expenses	189	10	3	By Rents	419	3	4
„ Balance (Income and Expenditure Account)	229	13	1				
	£419	3	4		£419	3	4

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cost of Holyoake Grave	237	5	0	By Transfer (Owen Memorial Fund)	90	13	8
„ Expenses of Site	182	3	0	„ Property Revenue Account	229	13	1
„ Opening, Removal, and other expenses	812	3	6	„ Expenses repaid	32	0	0
„ Bank Charges	86	16	0	„ Bank Dividend and Interest	1507	15	0
„ Balance	541	14	3				
	£1860	1	9		£1860	1	9

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	25807	16	6	By Land and Buildings	22362	7	10
„ Balance Income over Expenditure	541	14	3	„ Furniture and Fittings	1088	3	5
	£26343	10	9	„ Balance in Bank	2892	19	6
					£26343	10	9

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of exclusive of Central Board

RECEIPTS.

To DONATIONS:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
English Co-operative Wholesale Society	150 0 0	
Scottish " "	150 0 0	
Irish Agricultural " "	100 0 0	
United Co-operative Baking Society	100 0 0	
Armagh Co-operative Society	10 0 0	
Ballymena and Harryville Co-operative Society	5 0 0	
Belfast Co-operative Society	300 0 0	
Coalisland " "	2 2 0	
Cork Co-operative Society	5 0 0	
Drummaness Co-operative Society	3 0 0	
Dublin Industrial Co-operative Society	100 0 0	
" University " "	1 1 0	
Enniskillen Co-operative Society	5 0 0	
Larne Co-operative Society	2 0 0	
Lisburn " "	50 0 0	
Lucan " "	5 0 0	
Fortadown " "	20 0 0	
	1008 3 0	
" Advertisements in Handbook	75 0 0	
" Exhibition Expenses repaid	23 6 4	
" Sale of Handbooks (Souvenir)	40 0 0	
" Part Train Fares—Killarney Excursion	171 16 6	
" Boating, Driving, and Special Luncheon	104 10 0	
" Blandford Memorial Fund	74 12 0	
" Collection on account of Mrs. McNaughton's Loss	8 16 0	
" National Health Insurance—Part of Employés' portion	0 3 5	
" Sundries	0 2 0	
" Bank Interest	£5 16 7	
" " Dividend	2 0 1	
	7 16 8	
" Balance paid by the Co-operative Union Limited	848 6 7	

I have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Dublin Congress Fund for the year 1914, and compared all counterfoils of acknowledgments for cash received and vouchers for all payments made, and hereby certify the above Statement of Accounts as correct.

T. Wood,
Public Auditor.
Deansgate Arcade, Manchester,
17th August, 1914.

CENTRAL BOARD LUNCHEON:—

Paid by the Irish Agricultural Wholesale.. £45 3 5

the Co-operative Congress, Dublin, 1914, Fees and Expenses.

EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BY LODGINGS AND LUNCHEONS COMMITTEE:—							
Luncheons and Teas.....		468	6	6			
Advertising.....		2	15	1			
Postages.....		6	19	6			
Printing.....		11	1	0			
Stationery.....		4	8	8			
Travelling.....		2	2	0			
„ PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:—					495	7	4
Hire of Halls, Seating, Caretakers, &c.....		42	17	6			
Travelling and Expenses.....		12	5	0			
Postage.....		2	13	1			
Gas and Electricity.....		1	11	8			
Billposting.....		3	8	6			
Musicians, Artistes, &c.....		53	11	0			
Printing.....		7	0	5			
Excursions, Trains, and Trams.....		340	19	3			
Luncheon and Rent of Rooms.....		92	0	0			
Driving and Boating and Special Luncheon (part repaid).....		113	12	0			
„ EXHIBITION COMMITTEE:—					669	18	5
Hire of Skating Rink.....		85	0	0			
Labour, &c.....		52	6	2			
Electric Wiring, Fixing, and Lighting.....		174	0	0			
Fitting Tables and Decorating.....		124	10	0			
Flags, Signs, and Drapery.....		19	15	0			
Advertising.....		41	11	0			
Music.....		59	9	7			
Firemen and Police.....		14	0	10			
Billposting.....		32	2	4			
Printing.....		9	8	6			
Insurance.....		7	4	6			
Expenses repaid by Exhibiting Societies.....		23	6	4			
„ CONGRESS GUIDE AND HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:—					642	14	8
Souvenir—Printing.....		225	8	4			
Photographs.....		8	7	6			
Guidebook—Printing.....	£20	0	0				
Maps.....	4	11	2				
		24	11	2			
Travelling.....		5	13	5			
Postage and Stationery.....		3	13	1			
Cost of Extra Souvenirs (repaid).....		37	10	0			
„ FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:—					305	3	6
Hire of Congress Hall.....		30	0	0			
„ Meeting Room, &c.....		2	2	11			
„ Chairs.....		1	10	0			
Decorating Hall and Street Sign.....		10	14	9			
Fitting up Inquiry Office and Post Office Expenses.....		10	1	6			
Billposting and Distributing Handbills.....		10	8	4			
Doorkeepers and Caretakers.....		6	2	6			
Printing.....		16	15	8			
Delegates' Badges.....		11	17	5			
Postages, Stationery, Typing, &c.....		3	8	7			
Sundry Expenses.....		8	0	0			
					105	16	3
„ Foreign Delegates' Expenses.....					20	10	8
„ Carriage, Cab Hire, and Telegrams.....					2	4	5
„ Publications.....					2	12	10
„ Advertising.....					4	10	0
„ Binding, &c., Presentation Volumes.....					3	0	0
„ General Printing.....					24	7	9
„ Mrs. McNaughton's Collection, paid over.....					7	0	0
„ Blandford Memorial Fund and Balance of Collection.....					76	8	0
„ Bank Charges—Commission.....	£1	14	1				
Cheques.....	0	9	5				
Interest.....	0	15	7				
					2	19	1
					£2962	12	6

*ALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
.. .. SHOULD JOIN THE*

Co-operative Union Ltd.

The Union is an Association of Co-operative Societies for the defence of Co-operative principles, and to give advice to Societies in need of same, either in connection with Legal Business or Educational Work.

THE MISSIONARY, ORGANISER, AND ADVISER
— OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT. —

Divided into Eight Sections—Irish, Midland, Northern, North-Western, Scottish, Southern, South-Western, and Western Sections.

Sub-divided into 62 District Associations.

Controlled by a duly elected Central Board of 67 Members.

In Membership—1,284 Co-operative Societies, representing 3,052,041 Individual Members, or 95·73 per cent of the total membership of the Co-operative movement.

Not in Membership—226 Co-operative Societies, representing 136,099 Individual Members, or 4·27 per cent only of the total membership of the Co-operative movement.

Conditions of Membership.—Any Co-operative Society may become a member of the Co-operative Union by payment of the sum of 1½d. per member per annum.

Full particulars in regard to the work and objects of the Union may be had on application to the Central Office:

Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester,

OR ANY OF ITS BRANCH OFFICES:

263, WALLACE STREET, KINGSTON, GLASGOW.

99, LEMAN STREET. LONDON, E.

84, WESTMORLAND ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Established in



Balloon St 1869.

THE "PIONEER" CO-OPERATIVE PRINTERS.

CO-OPERATIVE PRINTING SOCIETY LTD.

LETTERPRESS
& LITHOGRAPHIC
PRINTERS,
BOOKBINDERS,
STATIONERS &

CO-OPERATIVE,
TRADE UNION &
FRIENDLY SOCIETIES'
PRINTERS.
ENQUIRIES INVITED.

All Employes receive Trade Union wages & work the 48 hours week.

118, CORPORATION ST., MANCHESTER.

WORKS-NEW MOUNT ST.

JAMES BOOTH, GENERAL MANAGER.

BRANCHES:-

RUTHERFORD ST., NEWCASTLE ON TYNE.

F. THOMAS, MANAGER.

TUDOR ST., LONDON E.C.

A. W. TYLER, MANAGER.

THE
**Co-operative Wholesale
Society Limited.**



Enrolled 11th August, 1863. Business commenced 14th March, 1864.

Wholesale Grocers, Provision Dealers, Drapers,

Dealers in Woollens, Ready-made Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Brushes, Crockery, Carpets, Furniture, Coal, &c.; Bankers, Manufacturers, Millers, Printers, Bookbinders, Boxmakers, Lithographers. Shipowners, Butter Factors, Lard Refiners, Bacon Curers, Fruit Growers, Drysalters, Spice Grinders, Saddlers, Curriers, Iron Founders, and Tinplate Workers, Fellmongers, &c.; Tea Growers, Blenders, Packers, and Importers.

SHIPPERS—Owners of Steamships

"FRATERNITY," "NEW PIONEER," and "DINAH."

Registered Office, Bank, and Shipping Department:—1, Balloon St., Manchester.

Grocery and Provision Warehouses:—Balloon Street and Corporation Street, Manchester.

Paper and Twine Warehouse:—Corporation Street, Manchester.

Drapery Warehouses:—Balloon Street and Dantzic Street, Manchester.

Woollens and Ready-made Clothing Warehouse:—Dantzic Street, Manchester.

Boot and Shoe Warehouse:—Balloon Street, Manchester

Saddlery Warehouse:—Thorniley Brow (Dantzic Street), Manchester.

Furniture Warehouse:—Corporation Street, Manchester.

Carpet and Floorcloth Warehouse:—Corporation Street, Manchester.

Coal Department:—Balloon Street, Manchester.

Branches:—West Blandford Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Leman Street, London, E.

Purchasing and Forwarding Depôts:—

Liverpool, Manchester, Goole, Garston, Bristol, Northampton, Cardiff, Longton, and Jersey;

Cork, Limerick, Tralee, and Armagh (Ireland); New York (America); Montreal (Canada).

Copenhagen, Aarhus, Odense, Herning, and Esbjerg (Denmark); Gothenburg (Sweden);

Rouen (France); Sydney (Australia); and Denia (Spain).

Sale and Sample Rooms:—Leeds, Nottingham, Blackburn, Huddersfield, and Birmingham.

Hide and Skin Depôts:—Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds, and Beeston.

Fellmongering, &c.:—Pontefract.

Manufacturers of Flour, Butter, Lard, Biscuits, Sweets, Preserves, Canned Peels, Pickles, Cocoa, Chocolate, Soap, Candles, Glycerine, Starch, Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, Snuff, Paints and Varnish, Boots and Shoes, Saddlery, Woollens, Grey Cotton Cloths, Clothing, Shirts, Shirtsings, Mantles, Underclothing, Corsets, Millinery, Flannels, Hosiery, Silasias, Pants, Ladies' Underwear, Cardigans, Furniture, Hardware, Brushes, Mats, &c.

THE PRESENT POSITION

Shareholders ^{(1,193} over $2\frac{1}{3}$ Millions.
Societies),

Capital, - - over $9\frac{1}{2}$ Millions.

Reserve Funds, nearly 2 Millions.

Land, Buildings, &c., ^{over} $5\frac{1}{2}$ Millions.

Depreciation, - - $3\frac{1}{3}$ Millions.

Sales for Year, nearly 35 Millions.

Total Sales, - - 534 Millions.

Total Profit, - over $9\frac{1}{4}$ Millions.

Bank Turnover, nearly $186\frac{1}{2}$ Millions.

Direct Imports, nearly $8\frac{1}{2}$ Millions.

Own Manufactures, over 9 Millions.

* For Year.

OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

The Co-operative Insurance Society Limited.

(The Joint Insurance Department of the CO-OPERATIVE
WHOLESALE SOCIETY LIMITED and the SCOTTISH
CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LIMITED.)

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

T. E. SHOTTON, Consett, *Chairman*.
T. ADAMS, Stockton-on-Tees.
W. R. ALLAN, Perth.
T. W. ALLEN, Newport, Mon.
W. GALLACHER, Larkhall.

G. HAYHURST, Accrington.
W. HEMINGWAY, Pendleton.
I. MORT, Leyton, Essex.
A. VARLEY, Lancaster.
G. WOODHOUSE, Derby.

Secretary—THOS. BRODRICK.

Manager—JAMES ODGERS.

CHIEF OFFICE.

109, Corporation Street, Manchester.

BRANCH OFFICES.

GLASGOW :
45, Morrison Street.

EDINBURGH :
4a, St. Andrew Square.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE : 84, Westmorland Road,

BRADFORD :
65, Sunbridge Road.

CARDIFF :
53, Queen Street.

LONDON : 14, Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C.

DUBLIN : 3, Commercial Buildings, Dame Street.

BANKERS:

THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LIMITED.

The Joint Insurance Dept.

(THE C.I.S.) UNDERTAKES

LIFE ASSURANCE

(COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL)

AND ANNUITIES.

FIRE, PLATE GLASS,
BURGLARY, FIDELITY,
:: AND EMPLOYERS' ::
LIABILITY INSURANCE.

Collective Personal Accident Insurance

For Committee-men who are Employers.

:: PUBLIC LIABILITY, ::
DRIVING ACCIDENT,
HORSE AND MOTOR
VEHICLE INSURANCE.

Liberal Policy Conditions, Moderate Rates, and
Prompt Loss Settlements.

. THE .

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

ESTABLISHED
1868.

THE HUB OF CO-OPERATION IN SCOTLAND.



Registered Office: 95, MORRISON STREET, GLASGOW.

Interesting figures for year ended June 26th, 1915:

CAPITAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	£4,453,838.
SALES	-	-	-	-	-	-	£10,324,811.
PROFIT	-	-	-	-	-	-	£456,099.
RESERVE AND INSURANCE FUNDS							£805,538.
TOTAL SALES from Commencement							£169,821,518.
TOTAL PROFIT							£6,147,825.
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,878.

Central Offices and Furniture Warehouse: MORRISON STREET, GLASGOW.

Furniture and Furnishing Showrooms: CHAMBERS STREET, EDINBURGH.

Grocery and Provision Warehouses: PAISLEY ROAD, CROOKSTON STREET, PARK STREET, and CLARENCE STREET, GLASGOW.

Drapery Warehouses: DUNDAS STREET, WALLACE STREET, and PATERSON STREET, GLASGOW.

Boot and Shoe Warehouse: DUNDAS STREET, GLASGOW.

Branches:

LINKS PLACE, LEITH.
SEAGATE, DUNDEE.

GRANGE PLACE, KILMARNOCK.
ENNISKILLEN, IRELAND.

Loyalty to the "S.C.W.S." is always the best policy.

The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

PRODUCTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

Factories for Boots and Shoes, Clothing, Furniture, Printing, Preserves
and Confections, Pickles, Coffee Essence, Tobacco, Hosiery,
Brushes, Tinware, and Sundries:

SHIELDHALL, GLASGOW.

Juvenile Clothing, Shirt, Tailoring, and
Aerated Water Factories:

PATERSON STREET, GLASGOW.

Mantle and Umbrella Factories:

DUNDAS STREET, GLASGOW.

Ham-Curing, Sausage Factory, Cartwright, Scalemaking
Departments, Bedding and Waterproof Factories:

PARK STREET, K.P., GLASGOW.

CHANCELOT FLOUR MILLS—EDINBURGH.

JUNCTION MEAL & FLOUR MILLS—LEITH.

REGENT FLOUR MILLS :: :: GLASGOW.

WHEAT DEPOT AND GRAIN ELEVATORS—

WINNIPEG, CANADA. TEA ESTATES, CEYLON.

Soap Works: **GRANGEMOUTH.**

Blanket Mill: **GALSTON.**

Fish-Curing Works: **ABERDEEN.**

Ettrick Tweed Mills: **SELKIRK.**

Dress Shirt Factory and Laundry: **PAISLEY.**

Hosiery Factory: **LEITH.**

Creameries:

**ENNISKILLEN, BELNALECK, GOLA, FLORENCE
COURT, S. BRIDGE, GARDNER'S CROSS, BLACK-
LION, GLENFARNE, COLESHILL, AND MONEAH,
IRELAND.**

BLADNOCH & WHITHORN, WIGTOWNSHIRE, N.B.

Calderwood Estate & Ryelands Milk Centre: LANARKSHIRE.

ORDER ONLY "S.C.W.S." BRANDS.

The **MOST SUCCESSFUL** Retail Societies in the
Country get **EVERYTHING** from the **S.C.W.S.**

I.A.W.S.



The I.A.W.S.

is a Federation of Irish Co-operative Societies,
Rural and Urban.



BUTTER, EGGS, POULTRY, HONEY,
and General Produce marketed for Agricultural
and Dairy Societies

DIRECT FROM THE PRODUCER TO THE CONSUMER.
Quotations on Application.



DAIRIES : All Classes of DAIRY MACHINERY and
Requisites Supplied.

Our Experts have many years' experience in the planning and equipment
of Dairies, and will advise on request. Estimates and Specifications free.



All classes of FARM AND GARDEN SEEDS, ARTIFICIAL
FERTILISERS, FEEDING STUFFS, COAL,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY,
FARM AND DOMESTIC HARDWARE,
CYCLES, &c., &c., supplied on lowest terms.



GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.



Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society Limited,

Telegrams :

"Produce, Dublin.

"Prosperity, Belfast."

Head Office and Bank :

**151, THOMAS STREET,
DUBLIN.**

Telephones :

Dublin, 1,432 and 3,666.
Belfast, 4,328.

DEPOTS THROUGHOUT IRELAND, AND IN LONDON.

Co-operators must realise more fully than hitherto that a *Powerful Press of their own* is an essential factor in any future development.



THE

“Co-operative News”



IS THE

Official Organ

OF THE

Co-operative Movement.

That is why it should have the whole-hearted support of every Co-operator. An increased circulation for the “Co-operative News” means greater security for the movement against outside attacks.

HEBDEN BRIDGE

Fustian Manufacturing Co-operative Society Ltd.

Telegraphic Address:
NUTCLOUGH," HEBDEN BRIDGE.

TELEPHONE No. 50.



ALL KINDS OF

FUSTIAN CLOTHING

READY-MADE AND TO MEASURE. NEATLY CUT AND FINISHED.

Samples and Prices to Co-operative Societies on application.

TO MEMBERS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES:

When ordering FUSTIAN CLOTHING at your Stores insist
on having those from the Co-operative Factory at Nutclough.

NUTCLOUGH, HEBDEN BRIDGE, YORKSHIRE.

AGENTS:

THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LIMITED,
MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, and LONDON, and the
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY LIMITED, GLASGOW.



ONE & ALL SEEDS



PURE VEGETABLE SEEDS.

PURE FLOWER SEEDS.

PURE FARM SEEDS.

CHOICE SELECTED STRAINS. LOW PRICES.



ONE & ALL BULBS



BULBS FOR THE GARDEN.

BULBS FOR THE GREENHOUSE.

BULBS FOR THE ROOM.

SOUND.

RELIABLE.

CHEAP.



ONE & ALL FERTILISERS



FOR THE GARDEN.

FOR THE FARM.

CLEAN.

POTENT.

INEXPENSIVE.

HANDSOME ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

ONE & ALL SEED SUPPLY,

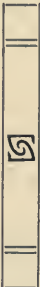
92, Long Acre,

LONDON, W.C.

Edw. A. Mearns

Managing Director.

INSIST ON HAVING THE PRODUCTIONS OF



The "Ideal" CLOTHIERS



LIMITED

: WELLINGBOROUGH :

AND SO ENSURE THAT YOU OBTAIN

LADIES' COSTUMES,
GENTLEMEN'S AND BOYS'
CLOTHING, HATS AND CAPS,

Made under Ideal Co-partnership Principles.

— ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ —
CONGRESS SCALE the MINIMUM WAGE

PAID IN EACH DEPARTMENT TO ALL WORKERS.

48 HOURS PER WORKING WEEK.

— ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ —
ASK FOR THESE GOODS AT YOUR STORES.

THE SPEROPE BRAND
TRADE MARK

LADIES

FOOTWEAR

FOR FIT
STYLE &
QUALITY
IN

TRADE UNION STAMP No 12.

Sperope Boot Manufacturers, Ltd., Barwell, Nr. Hinckley.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LEICESTER

CO-OPERATIVE

PRINTING SOCIETY

LIMITED.

Printers, Publishers, Bookbinders
and Account Book Manufacturers,
✻ Cardboard Box Makers, &c. ✻



We specialise in Co-operative Societies' re-
quirements—Card Index Cabinets and Filing
Systems, Loose Leaf Ledgers, Check Books,
&c.

Offices:

CHURCH GATE, LEICESTER.

PRINTING WORKS———SHORT STREET.

CARDBOARD BOX WORKS———BELGRAVE GATE.

GLENFIELD "PROGRESS"

CO-OPERATIVE

Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Society Limited.

REGISTERED OCTOBER, 1892.

Delegates to Congress
should not fail to see
the

"PROGRESS"

BRAND EXHIBIT

of

Boots and Shoes.



Mr. J. H. BREWIN,
Manager.

STYLE and FIT
Guaranteed.



First-class Goods
at
Moderate Prices.



Mr. A. WARBURTON,
Representative, Midlands and North.

♦
Makers
of the
"Wiminsgild"
Footwear.
♦



Mr. J. GARNER,
Representative, South and South Wales.

SAMPLES SENT TO ANY SOCIETY, CARRIAGE PAID.

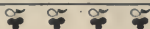
Office and Works:—STATION ROAD, GLENFIELD,
Near LEICESTER.

LEEDS

Industrial Co-operative Society Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1847.

Registered Office : - 10, ALBION STREET, LEEDS.



Corn Millers. Brush Makers.

Boot and Shoe Manufacturers.

Tin Plate Workers.

Wheelwrights. Coach Builders.

Saddlers and harness Makers.

QUOTATIONS AND SAMPLES SENT ON APPLICATION.



FLOUR Guaranteed Pure and Unbleached.

BOOTS and SHOES in all the Latest Styles.

FLOUR, CORN, POTATO, SUGAR BINS, &c., &c.
Best on the market.

HOUSEHOLD BRUSHES of every description.

VANS, CARTS, WAGONS, &c. (Designs, Photos, and
Specifications sent on application.)

Every Description of HARNESS, WAGON COVERS, &c.



**When in LEEDS visit the Cafe and Restaurant under
Drapery Department, Albion Street.**



THIS IMPRINT

on your printed matter denotes good work, good wages paid, and trade union labour from the beginning of the job to the dispatching of the parcel. It is the sign of one of the best equipped printing works in the country; works capable of undertaking any and every class of printing; works where the co-operation of willing workpeople and the most modern plant make it possible to execute orders promptly, and at the same time give good work at a reasonable price. It is the sign of THE NATIONAL LABOUR PRESS LTD. (members of the Co-operative Union), 30, BLACKFRIARS ST., MANCHESTER. The PRESS will be pleased to undertake printing work, to submit samples, and to supply estimates. Co-operative Societies, and the movement generally, should make a note of the address. Remember, THE NATIONAL LABOUR PRESS LIMITED

IS ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Leicester "ANCHOR" Boot and Shoe Productive Society Ltd.

MANUFACTURERS OF—



ASFORDBY STREET, NEW EVINGTON,
LEICESTER.

PAISLEY

Co-operative Manufacturing Society Ltd.,

Manufacturers of

SHIRTINGS, SHIRTS, SKIRTINGS, SKIRTS,
SERGES, TWEEDS, SHAWLS, QUILTS, UNDERCLOTHING,
BLOUSES, &c.

Progress of Trade

In periods of 5 years.

SALES.

1875.....	£31,210
1880.....	£35,113
1885.....	£82,915
1890.....	£165,848
1895.....	£273,543
1900.....	£373,737
1905.....	£446,234
1910.....	£555,043
Sales for 4 years ending December, 1914.....	£599,595

For Year 1914.

Sales	£160,844
Capital	£132,615
Expended on Property, Machinery, and Fix- tures	£71,107
Reductions on Property, Machinery, and Fix- tures	£25,538
Wages	£25,153
Dividend on Purchases ..	£13,376
Dividend on Wages.....	£1,195

THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR"

(THE ORGAN OF THE MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.)

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

CONTENTS :

Co-operative News from all parts of the country.
Reports of all Co-operative Conferences, Society
Meetings, &c. Special Articles of Co-operative,
Social, and Industrial Affairs, besides Bright,
Instructive, and Interesting Articles of a General
Character.

AVERAGE CIRCULATION 28,000 COPIES PER ISSUE.

Editors: HENRY DYER, M A., D.Sc., LL.D., and WILLIAM S. M. REID.

Printers: Scottish Wholesale Society Limited.

Societies will be supplied with Specimen Copies on application at
the rate of 4s. per 100 copies, carriage paid.

Annual Subscription, 6s. 6d. post free.

Office and Boardroom :

263, WALLACE STREET, KINGSTON, GLASGOW.

FOR LADIES', GENTS', AND BOYS' SMART UP-TO-DATE

FOOTWEAR ^{T R Y}

“EXCELLON” BRAND

REGISTERED.

Samples sent to Societies Carriage Paid. Trade Union
Stamped. Profits divided between Labour, Capital,
and Customer.

Sileby Excelsior Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Society
LIMITED,

BROOK STREET, SILEBY, near LOUGHBOROUGH.

*If you want to enjoy Good Health you must use Good
Salt. This you can get from your Stores.*

The New Co-op. Table Salt

Is the best to eat.

The New Co-op. Gravy Salt

Is the best to use.

The Morning Star Health Salts

will put your liver in order, and, by regular
use, will keep it right.

Manufactured only by

**THE MORNING STAR SUNDRIES,
LEICESTER.**

SAMPLE THE
K.C. BRANDS

In Corsets, Blouses, & Overalls,



BECAUSE they are Smart. BECAUSE they are Cheap. BECAUSE they are Manufactured with Co-operative Capital, under first-class conditions, by a Society that has stood the test for 17 years, and increased its trade every year. This speaks for itself.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:

KETTERING CORSET MANUFACTURERS LTD., RUTLAND WORKS.

**LEICESTER CO-OPERATIVE
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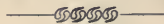
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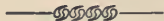
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